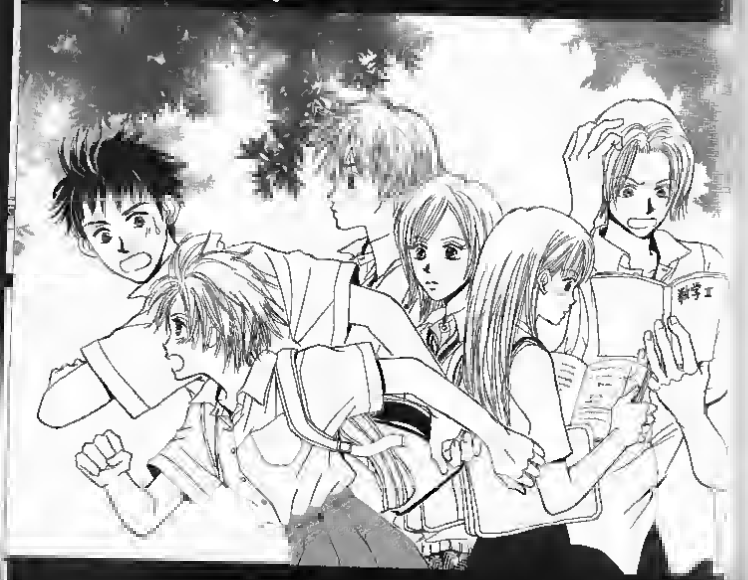
# X2 Times



Story & Art by
**Shouko Akira**

shôjo

**shô•jo** (sho´jo) *n.* **1.** Manga appealing to both female and male readers. **2.** Exciting stories with true-to-life characters and the thrill of exotic locales. **3.** Connecting the heart and mind through real human relationships **4.** A graphic novel line from VIZ

*Also available from VIZ*

Action
Editor's Choice
SHONEN JUMP
SHONEN JUMP Advanced
Studio Ghibli Library

Love at First Touch
X2
SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY I FELL FOR THAT GUY
C'MON! YOU'RE FAST!
ME? RUN? Why teacher?
TANIGUCHI, YOU SHOULD RUN IN THE RELAY!
For field day, y'know?
MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE BEEN DRAFTED
We'll cheer you on!
You're so annoying. I'm gonna hate you.

# X2 • Times Two

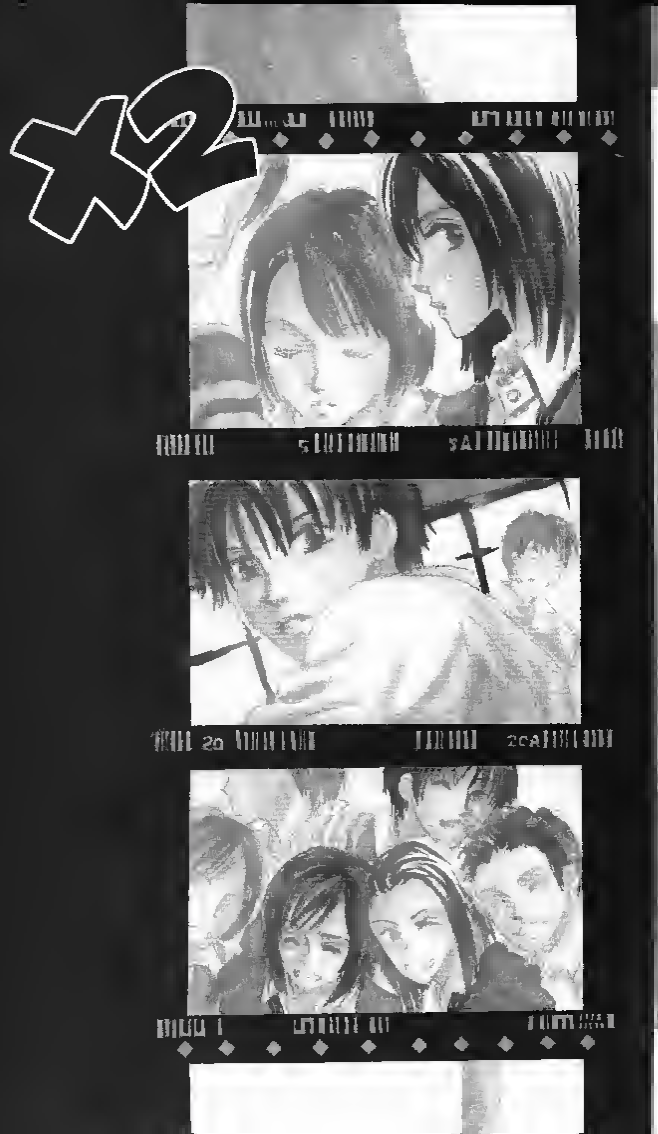
Love at First Touch.....3

Expiration Date 2001...39

Second Impression.....73

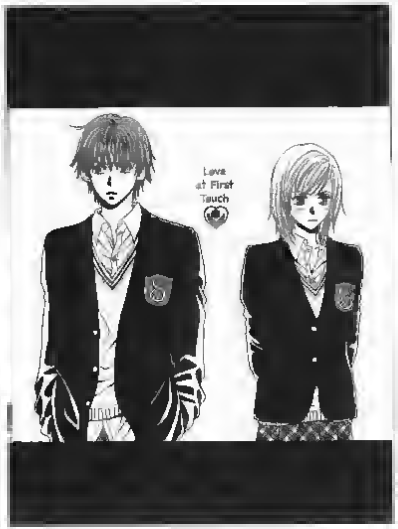
Frequency.....108

Baby Universe.....148

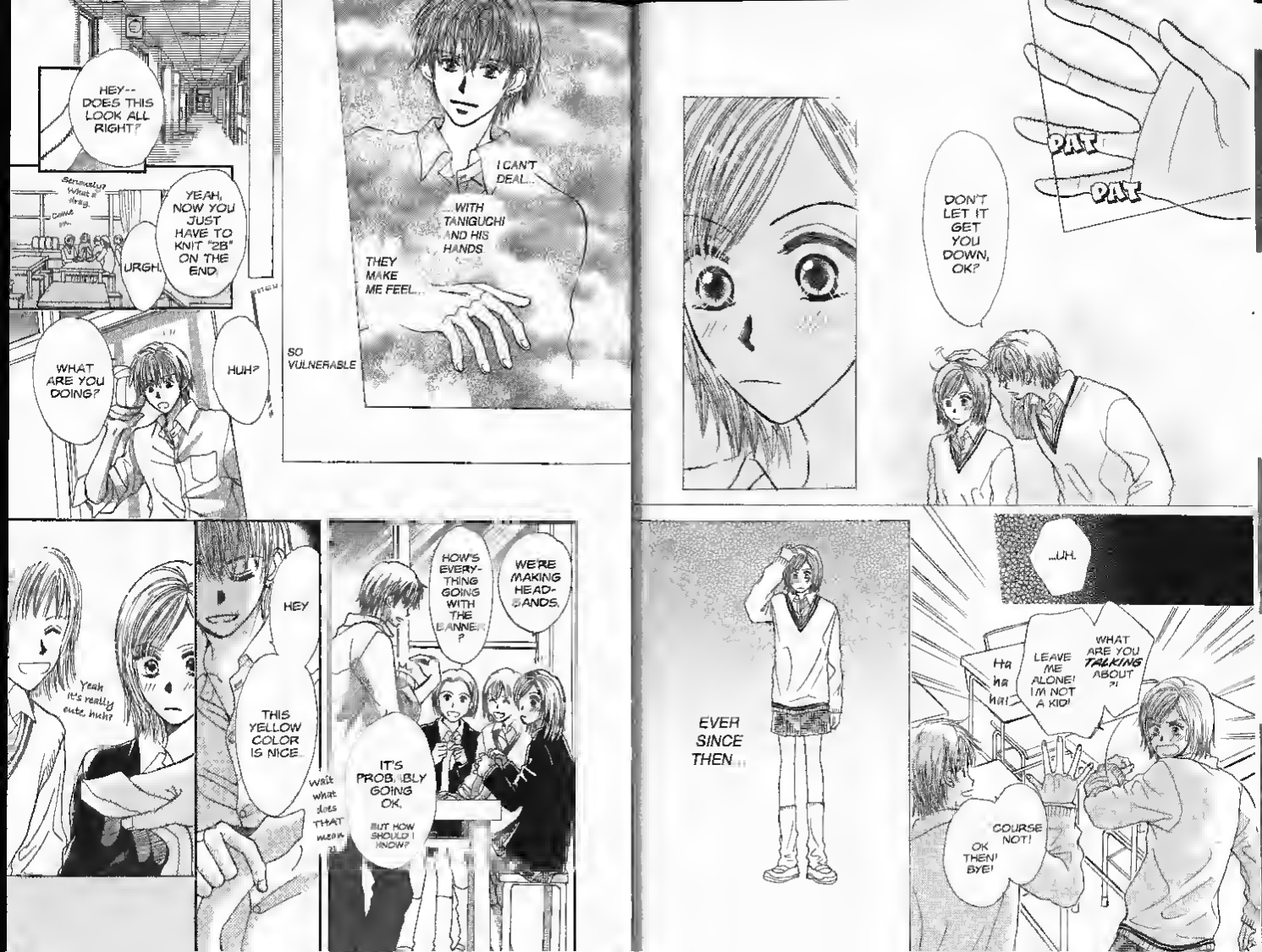

x2

Love
at First
Touch

GONG
POOR ERI..
HEY, QUIT HORSING AROUND IN CLASS!
...
OH. SORRY
HEY!
!!!
SORRY ABOUT THAT, ERI
HANDS OFF! YOU'LL MESS UP MY HAIR-STYLE


Love at First Touch

FORGET IT ERI IS SO GOOD SHE DOESN'T NEED TO PRACTICE WITH US
IT'S JUST THAT NO ONE ELSE IS.
I'M NOT TRYING TO BE IN CHARGE!
OH, PLEASE!
IF YOU WANT TO BE IN CHARGE THAT BAD, WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO IT ON YOUR OWN?
TAP
NO, WE WERE JUST PRACTICING FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
HM...
I'm looking for my lunch box.
ARE YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME-THING?
OH... um...
TERRIFYING
HM? YEAH.
UGH! BOYS ARE SO STUPID!
IS YOUR HEAD OKAY, ERI?
You knocked me out last
SHE'S ONLY KIDDING
heh heh
Oh! Really!
KOHEI TANIGUCHI...
LAST FALL.
NGH HIM TOUCHING MY HEAD REMINDS ME OF...
SO WHY DO I LIKE HIM?
...IS SUCH A CLOWN
NEVER SERIOUS.


HEY-- DOES THIS LOOK ALL RIGHT?
Seriously? What a drag.
Come on.
URGH.
YEAH, NOW YOU JUST HAVE TO KNIT "2B" ON THE END.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HUH?
I CAN'T DEAL...
...WITH TANIGUCHI AND HIS HANDS.
THEY MAKE ME FEEL...
SO VULNERABLE
PAT
PAT
DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN, OK?
Yeah it's really cute, huh?
HEY
THIS YELLOW COLOR IS NICE.
Wait what does THAT mean?!
HOW'S EVERY-THING GOING WITH THE BANNER?
WE'RE MAKING HEAD-BANDS.
IT'S PROBABLY GOING OK.
BUT HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
EVER SINCE THEN...
...UH.
Ha ha ha!
LEAVE ME ALONE! I'M NOT A KID!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
COURSE NOT!
OK THEN! BYE!

Greetings!
Hi, this is Shouko Akira. This book ended up being a collection of short stories. I hope you like it!

About *Times Two*
These stories deal with school and yearning for love (actually that's what all my manga are about. ) It wasn't easy to wrap each one up within 35 pages, though, I've gotta say

"Love at First Touch"
I remember field day when I was in school... there'd be so much commotion it would make me cry
So do you think these two could be a couple without fighting all the time?

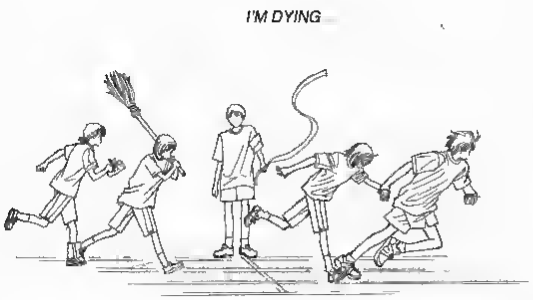
...WHY DO I GET SO NERVOUS WHEN HE'S AROUND?

Yeah! You're supposed to be helping the boys!
How boring
AND YET...
OH SORRY I INTERRUPTED YOUR WORK.
COULD YOU MOVE YOUR HAND?
BUT..

NEXT UP, THE SCAVENGER HUNT RACE!
Eri!
GO FOR IT!
HEY- IT'S ERI!
HA HA HA
BANG
Someone with a pierced ear
GASP
HUH ?!
That's a person, not a thing!!
RAAH!
RAAH!
fwip

ARE YOU IN THE NEXT EVENT?
YEAH, THE SCA-VENGER HUNT RACE
YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL WHAT CARD YOU GRAB!
REALLY —?
ERI!
BA
RAAH!
BANG
OH NO... WHAT IF I GET SOME-THING WEIRD?!
HE'S REALLY FAST... STUPID SHOW-OFF

THIS CAN'T BE...
Yeah Taniguchi!
SO...
SHALL I JOIN YOU?
OH...
...SURE
OK.
THEN LET'S GO.
WHAT?
NO...
HEY
NO NO WAY
HEY
IS YUMI AROUND?
HM?
WHAT'S THAT?
pierced ear
OH
TANI-GUCHI
WHAT'S YOUR NOTE SAY?
THEY BOTH WENT TO GET READY FOR THE COSTUME RACE
THEN WHAT ABOUT...
...SACCHI OR NAOKO?
YUMI'S IN THE CAFETERIA.
I THINK.
A PIERCED EAR?
What I thought they were against school rules.
IS THERE ANYONE ELSE...
"SOMEONE WITH A PIERCED EAR."
ME! ME!
HERE!


I'M DYING

RAAAAAH
RAH!
FIRST PLACE..
WE DID IT?!
RAH!
HUF HUF
1
HERE, YOU WON!

OH!
WE'LL BEAT 'EM!
COME ON, FASTER!
WHOA!
WHOA
YEAAAH!
They're ahead!
Go! Go!
ERI!
NO!

HA HA HA
OH, GEEZ
I THINK...
...I REALLY DO
LIKE THIS GUY
C'MON
YOUR HAND
ER!!
HAND?
HUH?
WE ROCK!
SLAP

COLD
BIP
...
TONK
I'LL GIVE HIM A SODA
...SINCE I DIDN'T THANK HIM AFTER THE RACE
Is he asleep?
OH...
TANI...
TANI-GUCHI !!

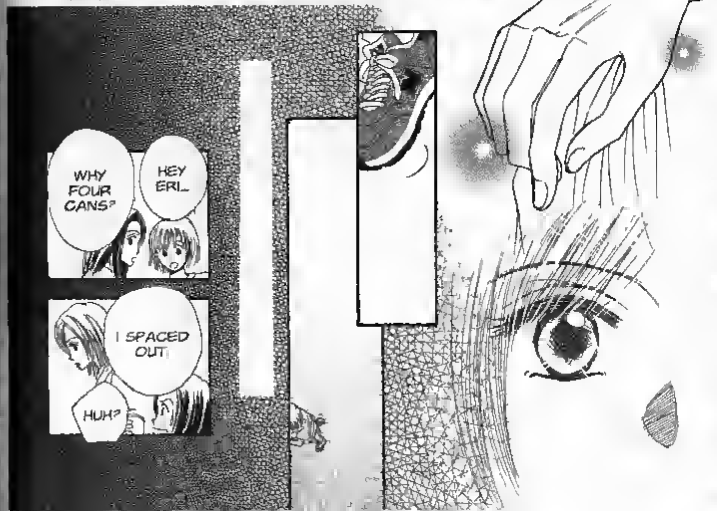
THAT WAS AWE-SOME!
OH THANKS...
MY HAND'S STILL NUMB
RAAH RAAH
I want green tea!
OK.
Cool. Get me a Pocari Sweat.
WELL... I'LL GO GET SOME DRINKS
OH...
I'M LOSING MY VOICE!
IT'S AMAZING HOW PUMPED UP WE CAN GET.
School spirit!
All this cheering!
That's it.
Pocari And...
POCHI!
TONK

I GOT...
...CARRIED AWAY.
You spaced OUT? You couldn't even count to three? That's pretty extreme.

Cheese!
KLIK
Sure, OK.
Come on!
MM.
CAN WE TAKE OUR PICTURES WITH YOU?

HOORAY! CHEERS!
YOU WERE GREAT!
WHY ARE YOU SULKING OVER HERE?
YEAH!
THAT WAS AMAZING!
THAT'S RIGHT, YOUR FUN WITH TANIGUCHI!
GOOD GOING, EVERY-BODY!
Our teacher's treat!
You want green tea or oolong?
Not bad at all!
SO OUR CLASS WON THIRD PLACE?
We'll have a real party some other day.

Peace!
WHEEEE!


WHY FOUR CANS?
HEY ERI...
I SPACED OUT!
HUH?

FWAKK
NO.
STOP IT!
SHFFT

THEN MAYBE WE SHOULD GO OUT!
OH, REALLY?
And you were first!
Yeah, they should've called it the "lovers' race"!
YOU TWO DID MAKE A NICE COUPLE
HA HA HA
You jerk!
WE LOOKED SO COOL.
It was the scavenger hunt race and they ended up running together
HEY...
WHOA!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
A MATCH IS MADE AT FIELD DAY!!
WHAT A GREAT STORY!
Congratulations!
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP CLAP
OVER HERE, YOU TWO
HEH, HEH.
EVERY ONE GET OUT OF THE WAY
You're in the way!
HA HA HA
Get closer
Smile, Sir!
They look so good together
NO

NO, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO HARD.
tap
tap
tap
tap
BUT I JUST COULDN'T CONTROL MYSELF
I COULDN'T SHRUG IT OFF
I COULDN'T JUST SAY, "FORGET IT."
SHE MUST REALLY HATE YOU...
BAM
WOW...
huf
huf
AND OVER NOTHING...
IN FRONT OF EVERY-ONE...
SO STUPID.

DON'T TOUCH ME LIKE IT'S A JOKE.
DON'T KID AROUND...
...ABOUT "GOING OUT"
BECAUSE FOR ME, IT MATTERS.

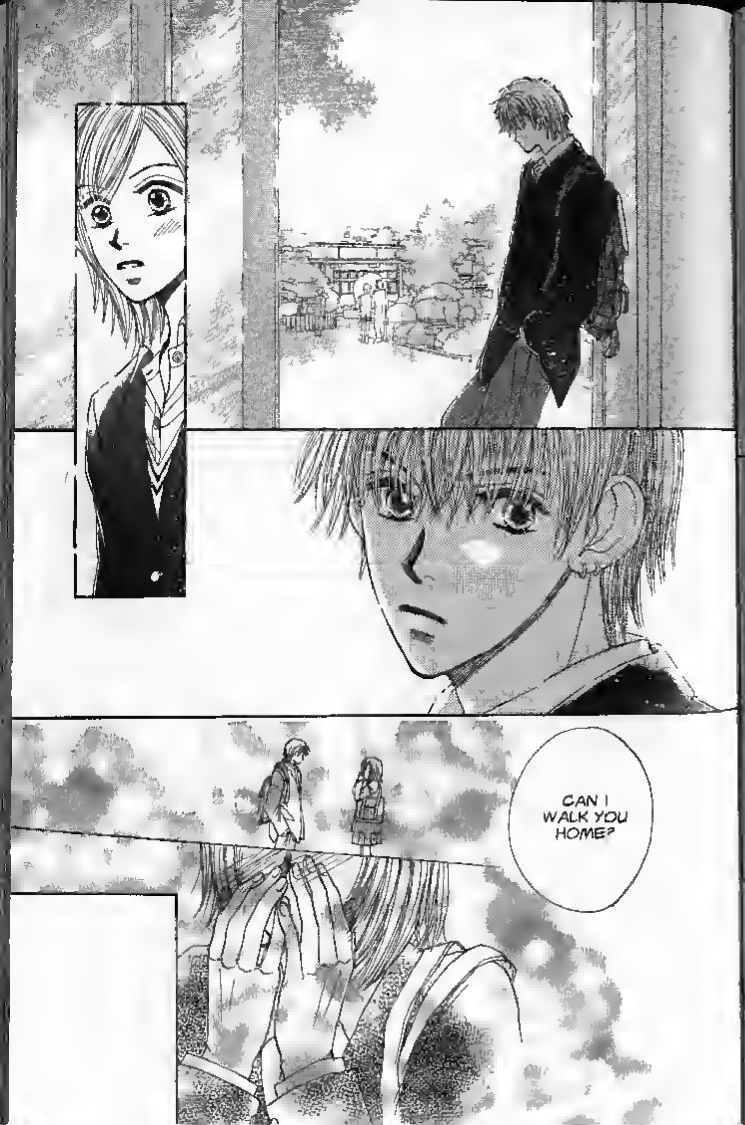
...ARE YOU SAYING?
WHAT...
ERI..

TAP

HEY..
I'VE BEEN WONDERING...
DID I DO SOMETHING TO UPSET YOU?

THAT'S WHY I CAN'T STAND..
...YOU.
...I KNOW.
...THEY WERE JUST KIDDING
IT WAS A JOKE
YOU KNOW... um.

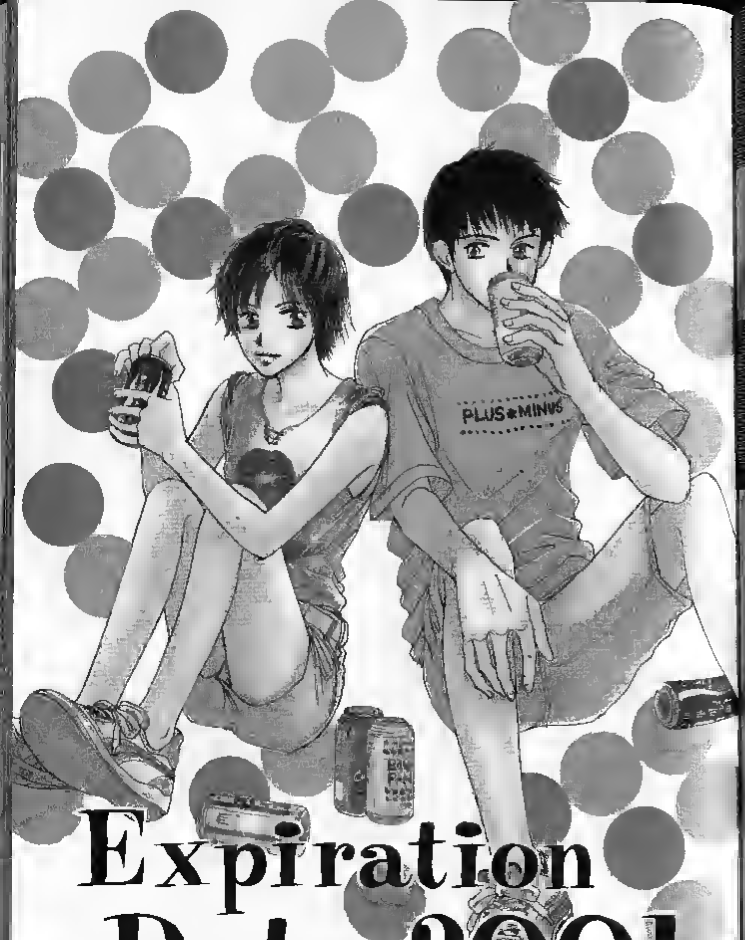
ZZP
SIGH
SO TIRED...
WHAT?
I'M SAYING I LIKE YOU.


CAN I WALK YOU HOME?

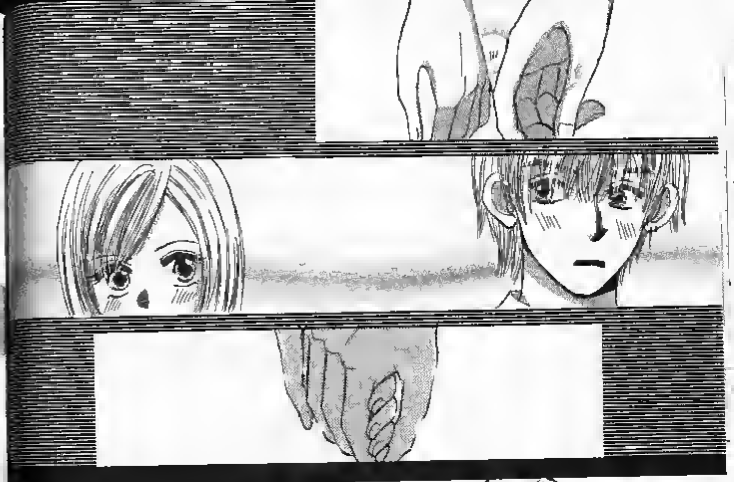
I'M GOING HOME
KLAK
HE MUST'VE BEEN SURPRISED
OR FREAKED OUT
I ENDED UP RUNNING AWAY FROM TANIGUCHI AFTER HE FROZE UP
HE TOTALLY FROZE UP

...HOLD HANDS...?
CAN WE...?
I'VE...
...
...WANTED TO ASK YOU THAT FOR SO LONG
...
YOU DID NOT!
HEY, I SAID I WAS SORRY..
WELL, YOU DID SLAP ME...
THAT'S TER-RIBLE!
BUT I KNEW YOU'D TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY YOU'D THINK I WAS TOYING WITH YOU.
NO WAY!
?

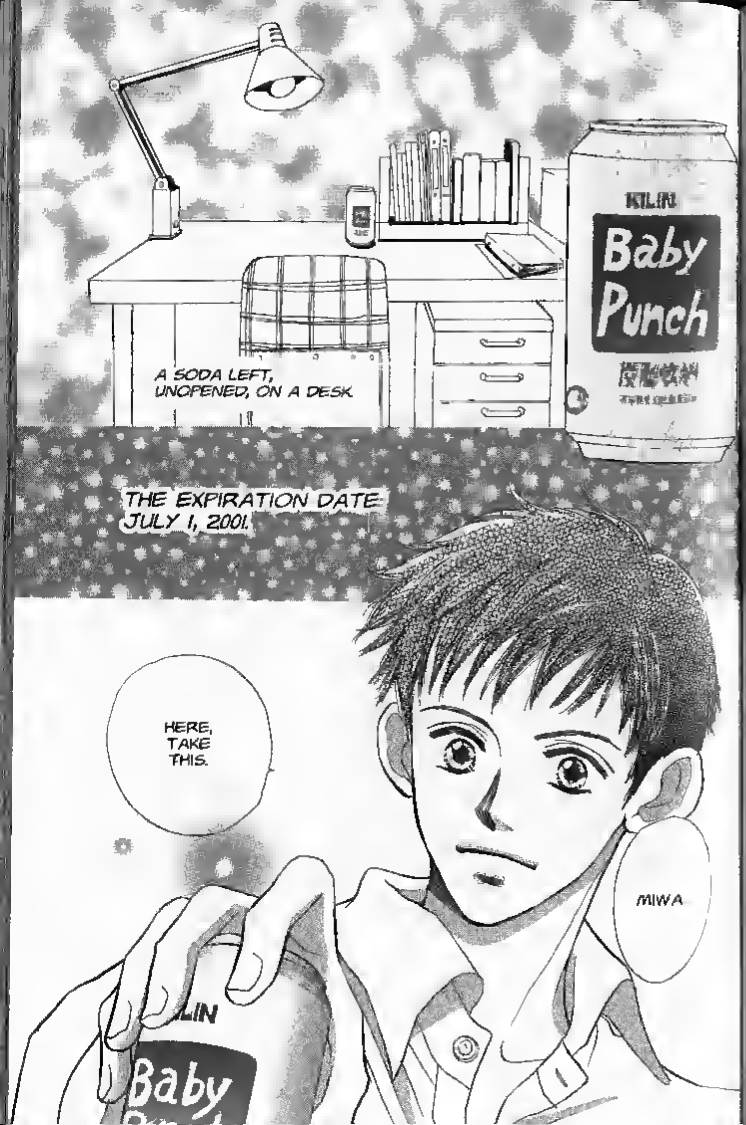
WE FALL IN LOVE SO EASILY...
...WITH JUST ONE LITTLE TOUCH...
SURE.
AND THEN
...IT ALWAYS TURNS OUT TO BE SO COMPLICATED
HEY...




# Expiration Date 2001



Love at First Touch
THE END


A SODA LEFT, UNOPENED, ON A DESK.
Baby Punch
THE EXPIRATION DATE JULY 1, 2001.
HERE, TAKE THIS.
MIWA
Baby

Expiration Date
2001

A3 1732 .010701
Baby Pure
OI...
YES! HE GAVE ME SOMETHING!
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY EXPECTATIONS...
AS IN...
...2001?!
WOW!
IT WAS BACK WHEN EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM.
2001 SEEMED TO PROMISE A NEW WORLD.
THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT...
...IT WOULD BE NICE TO BE HIS GIRLFRIEND BY THAT DATE.
AND SO THAT SODA CAN BECAME A SYMBOL OF HOPE.

THANKS!
HUH?
FOR HELPING ME CLEAN THE TEAM OFFICE
IT WAS MY PUNISHMENT
SUMMER 1999...
KENTA MORINAGA AND I WERE BOTH FRESHMEN ON THE TRACK TEAM.
BUT YOU HELPED EVERYONE ELSE JUST TOOK OFF.
PRETTY HARSH, HUH?
HA HA!
DRINK IT ON THE WAY HOME!
WELL...
...I WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ANYWAY, SO...

Huh?! Miwa... You like Kenta?!
WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM?
I MEAN, COME ON... IT'S BEEN WHAT... TWO YEARS?
ME?!
YOU'RE SUCH A DORK
OVER?!
THE SEASON'S OVER FOR US SENIORS AFTER THE JUNE MEET
HELLO!
!!
WELL, YOU'D BETTER THINK OF SOMETHING. THE TRACK SEASON'LL BE OVER SOON
WHAT CAN I DO?
I NEVER FOUND THE RIGHT CHANCE
SO, WHAT WILL YOU DO?
GASP
You didn't realize it?
YOU WON'T BE SEEING HIM EVERY DAY AT PRACTICE
Once the season's over we won't be on the team together...
PLUS YOU'RE IN CLASS 8 AND HE'S IN CLASS 1. YOU DON'T EVEN SHARE THE SAME BUILDING WITH HIM!
!
...AND THE 21ST CENTURY ARRIVED!
POP
POP
HYOOOO
SO...
THE MONTHS PASSED...
...IT WAS JUNE 200!
Prefectural Track Meet
June 23
Nishigaoka Track
THE NEXT THING I KNEW...
...WE WERE STILL THE SAME
AND WE...
Practice is gonna get tough
KENTA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING MIWA?
THE MEET SCHEDULE IS ALL SET

NO MORE "JUST FRIENDS"!
...WOULD DETERMINE THE COURSE OF THE FUTURE!
I MADE THIS!
HEY, KENTA!
DID I DO THAT RIGHT..? SOMETHING PERSONAL... BUT CASUAL..
I'm so useless!
WOW
Impressive
POP
YOU MADE 'EM YOURSELF?
HUH?
I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE SOME AFTER PRACTICE
HONEY DIPPED LEMON SLICES.
PROBABLY LACED WITH POISON.
WHAT?!
THAT'S FREETTY WEIRD
GYA HA HA
Jerk.
Fool.
TRACK + FIELD
MIWA MADE DESSERT FOR AFTER PRACTICE!
EVERY BODY!
LOOK!

Hope it works out!
Go for it!
SO THE END OF THE SEASON AND THE EXPIRATION DATE WERE THE SAME.
I KNEW..
..IT WAS NO COINCIDENCE.
Don't forget your shirt, though.
WHATEVER HAPPENED BEFORE JULY 1ST..
...
..I'LL DO IT.
I'LL DO IT IN THE NEXT MONTH!
Yean!
That's it!
CLAP CLAP

Kenta's such a jerk! He's crazy about track!
BUT...
...THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT HIM.
FAILURE #2
UH...
YOU MEAN...
YOU DIDN'T TALK ABOUT ANYTHING BUT TRACK?
WELL...
A LONG TIME AGO... BUT I THOUGHT I TOOK CARE OF IT.
WHAT'S YOUR TIME?
FAILURE #1
W-WELL... IT IS OUR LAST SEASON...
YOU MUST BE RE...LLY DEDICATED TO THE TEAM!
Y'KNOW, MIWA, TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
...HIS PASSION.
I've gotta reduce my start by 0.04 seconds.
I LOVE...
I KNOW !!
COME ON!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS! IT'S GETTING DESPERATE!
TIME'S SLIPPING AWAY...
...EVEN WHILE WE TALK
TP TP TP TP TP TP
THEN WE'RE HEADED IN THE SAME DIRECTION.
I GOTTA STOP BY THE BOOK-STORE
ATTEMPT #2
HUH?
YOU GOING THIS WAY, MIWA?
QUICK... SAY SOMETHING CLEVER!
H-HEY...
BY THE WAY...
ARE YOU STILL HAVING TROUBLE AT THE START OF THE 200M DASH?
DID THE COACH TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT?
WHAT?
My start?
LEVEL MAY EXCEED

02

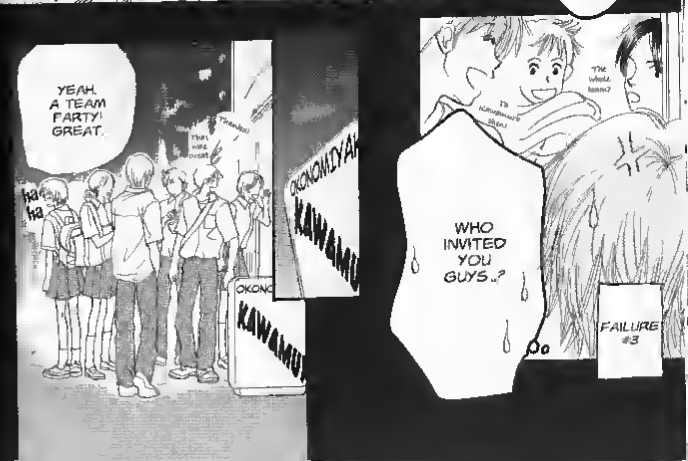
✖✖

"Expiration Date 2001":

I come up with the title and the rough concept for this story a long time ago. It took me this long to get to it, but I'm glad I did. Time moves too fast.

✖

The drink in the story is made-up, of course, but I think of it as being similar to Calpico Soda.



I'M SO NERVOUS NOW THAT THIS HAS BEEN BUILT UP AS MY BIG CHANCE...
YIKES!
WHAT ELSE CAN I SAY...
ARE YOU OKAY, SUZUKAWA?
I'M HOME.
JUMP
HMM.
MAYBE THEY WENT TO A KARAOKE BAR
YEAH...
A PARK!
OH!
CONFESS?
JUMP HIM?!
WH-WHAT DO I DO?!
YOU WANT SOME-THING TO DRINK?
HM
HUH?
NO! NOT AT ALL!
tok
SPACED

Eek!
HEY, MIWA, DO YOU HAVE YOUR CELL PHONE?
BIG LIE
UH, I LEFT IT AT HOME
HUH?
It's not so useful when you forget it, then? Ha! Ha!
SO... WE GOT DITCHED
I...DON'T KNOW I WENT TO THE BATHROOM AND...
"NOW YOU CAN BE ALONE WITH HIM."
Where are they?
THEY PROBABLY WENT TO AN ARCADE
R RIGHT
WE'LL FIND 'EM

I LIKE YOU.
KENTA...
YEAH...
REALLY?
...I LIKE IT, TOO.
I...
IT'S GOOD
KENTA...
THAT SODA...
KENTA...
THIS?
IT'S MY FAVORITE KIND!
RARE, THOUGH...
Baby Punch
DO YOU REMEMBER?
A LONG TIME AGO, THE SODA MACHINE IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL CARRIED IT
I HARDLY EVER SEE IT ANYMORE

KLUNK
Even the dorkiest couples are so far beyond me that I have to admire them.
HOW DO COUPLES GET TOGETHER?
ARGH!
WAIT
HEY
UH..
REALLY?
KEN MORIMOTO IS 58 YEARS OLD!!
I MEAN, 58!
WEIRD, HUH?!
NO!
MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL IT A NIGHT
ANY-WAY..
KE--
KEN..?
KEN..
K--
I LIKE YOU!

YOU'VE GOTTA GET IT STRAIGHT, MWA!
IF YOU THINK THINGS ARE JUST GONNA HAPPEN...
YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE!
JUST LOOK AT THE RESULTS SO FAR, OKAY?!
YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
ENOUGH WITH BEING FRIENDS.
COME ON, THIS IS THE 21ST CENTURY
You're not in junior high!
Duh!
LOVE'S GOT AN EXPIRATION DATE TOO, YKNOW!
SO GET SERIOUS!
OKAY, I GET IT!

KENTA...
...HE LIKES THIS SODA

SO...?!
HOW'D IT GO LAST NIGHT?!
DID YOU JUMP HIS BONES?!
UH...NO... WE JUST TALKED
DID YOU TELL HIM?!
UM... NOT YET...
I can't believe you!
BUT... IT WAS STILL NICE...
Nice?!
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
YOU HAVE TO MAKE PROGRESS!

DON'T LET ME...
...INTERRUPT YOUR SPEECH.
OH, NO...

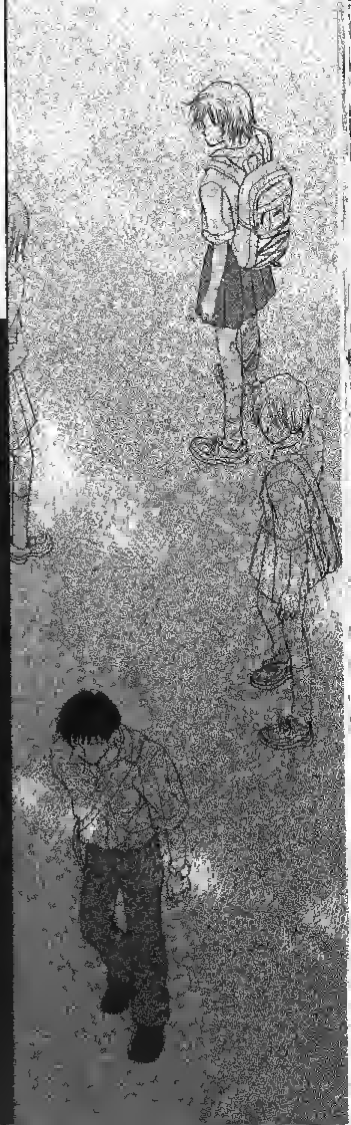
KENTA...

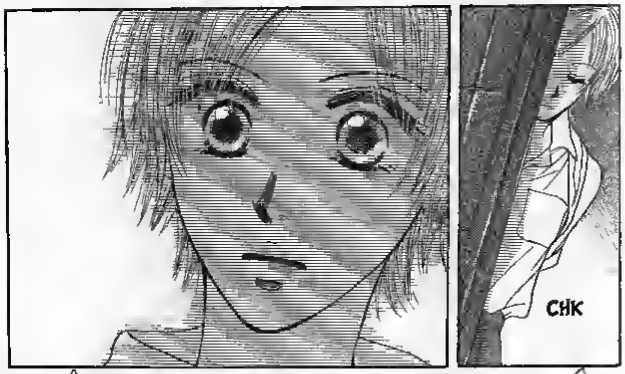
SAVE YOUR BREATH.
LEAVE ME EX...

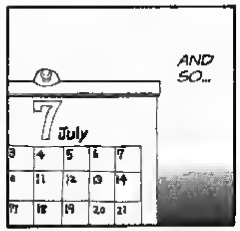
I KNOW I ONLY HAVE UNTIL THE END OF THE SEASON WITH KENTA!
AND IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT....
...THEN... WHO CARES ABOUT KENTA ANYWAY?
UH...
MIWA?

I ALREADY KNOW...
...HOW IT COMES OUT
FORGET IT
IT'S OVER
WE'LL TELL HIM...
WE CAN HELP YOU OUT!
400 meters!
Next...
"SAVE YOUR BREATH."
KENTA NEVER LIKED ME IN THE FIRST PLACE
I DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO HEAR HIM REJECT ME AGAIN.
OUR TRACK CAREERS WERE OVER.
NO ONE MADE IT INTO THE FINALS FROM THE TRACK MEET IN JUNE, SO THE SEASON CAME TO AN END.

MIWA!
YOU GOTTA DO SOME-THING!
HE HATES ME.
Come on!







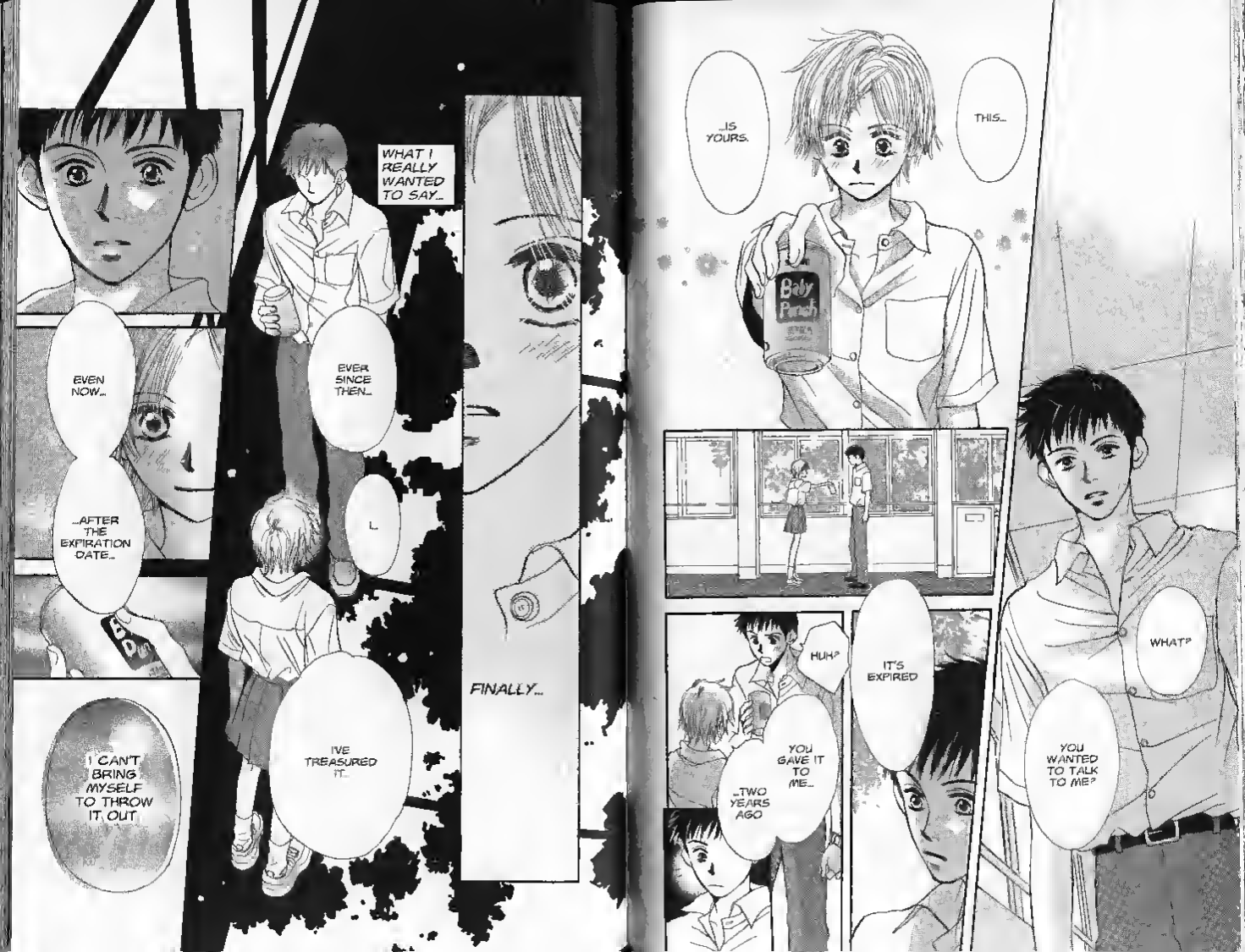

...THE EXPIRED SODA SAT THERE ON MY DESK.

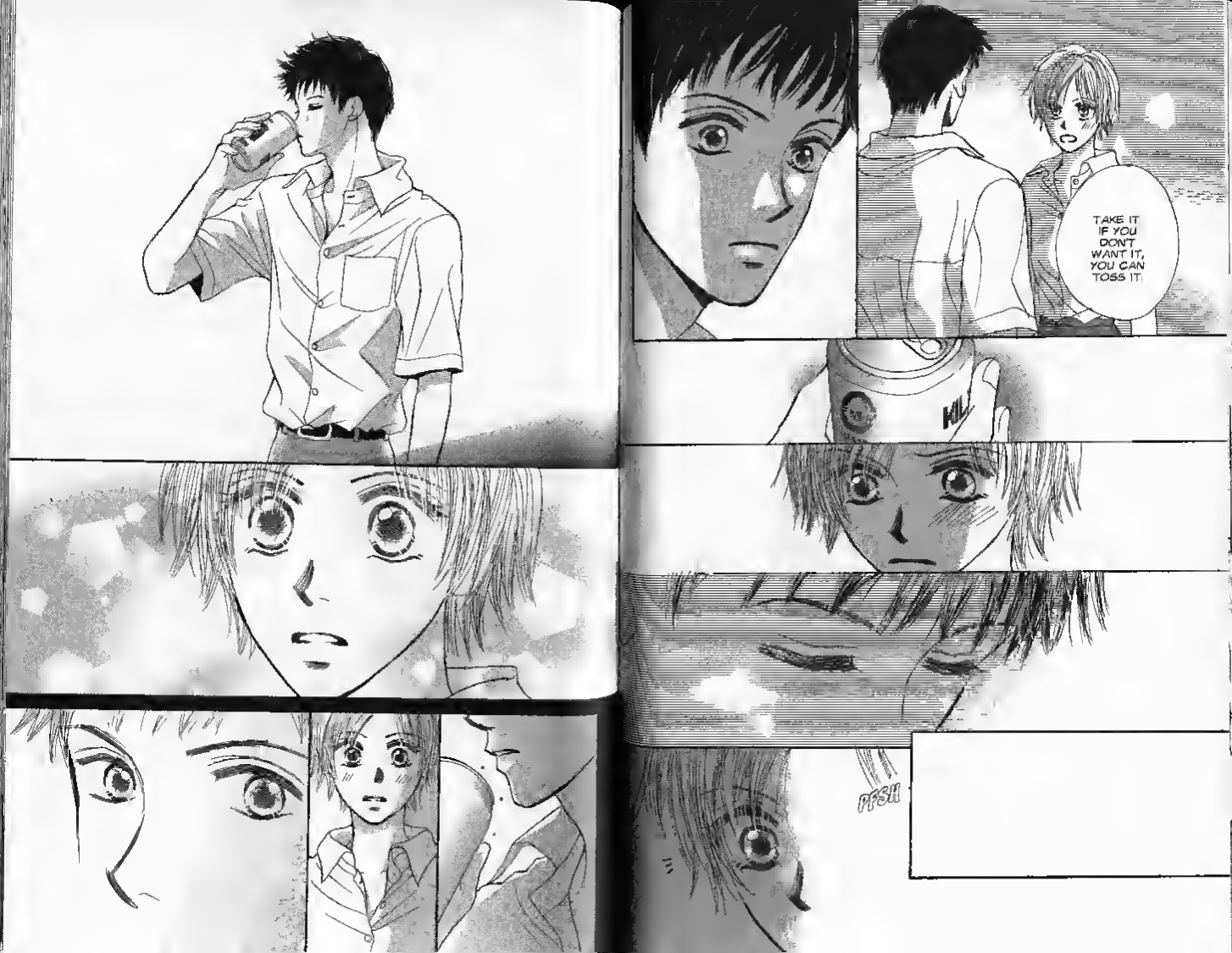
I ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING IN THOSE TWO YEARS.

THE CAN BECAME A SYMBOL OF MY COWARDICE.

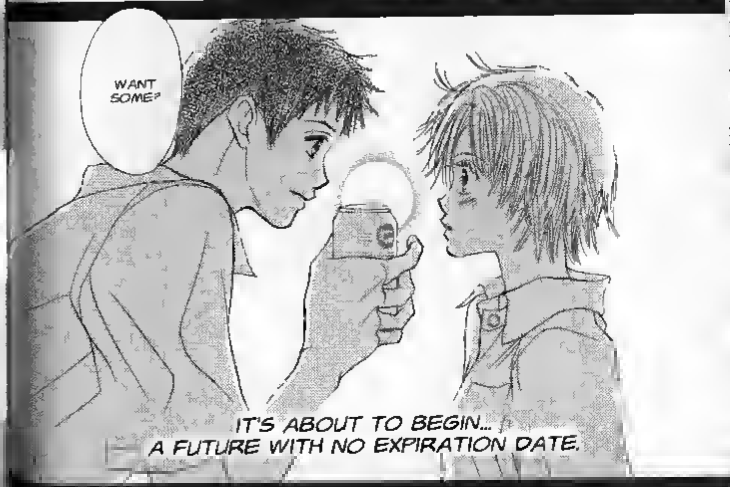
I REALLY SHOULD THROW IT AWAY...

HA HA
HA HA HA
hmph
"HERE, TAKE THIS."
"IT'S MY FAVORITE KIND"
WHO WANTS WARM SODA?
...
AM I WRONG TO ASSUME YOU'D WANT IT COLD?
well you shut the door, please?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
SHEESH.
WHAT DID YOU DO?
HUH?
THERE WAS A CAN OF SODA...
OH YEAH.
TELL ME!
THE...
I PUT IT IN THE FRIDGE.
'fridge?
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, ANYWAY?
GETTING ALL WORKED UP OVER A SODA!
IT'S BIZARRE.
YOU'RE A SENIOR.
DON'T YOU HAVE BETTER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT?


EVEN NOW...
...AFTER THE EXPIRATION DATE...
I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO THROW IT OUT
I'VE TREASURED IT...
EVER SINCE THEN...
WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO SAY...
FINALLY...
...IS YOURS.
THIS...
Baby Punch
HUH?
...TWO YEARS AGO
YOU GAVE IT TO ME...
IT'S EXPIRED
WHAT?
YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME?

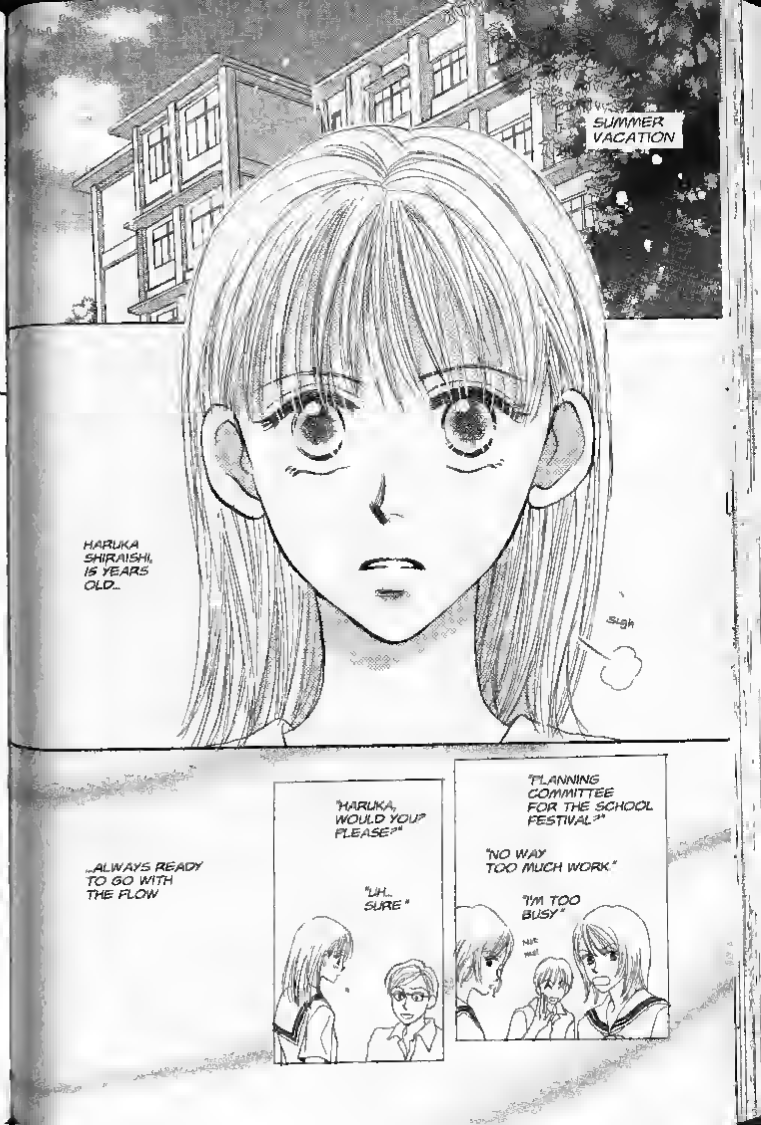

TAKE IT IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, YOU CAN TOSS IT.
PFSH

# Second Impression




EXPIRATION DATE 2001
THE END

SCHOOL'S ALWAYS BEEN SOMETHING THAT JUST FLOWED BY
FRESHMAN SUMMER...
THIS SUCKS...
BUT NOW I HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL THIS SUMMER...
OH!
PLASH
WHAT...?
!!!
HEY
WHAT THE...?
VSH
OOP'S.
DID I SPLASH YOU?

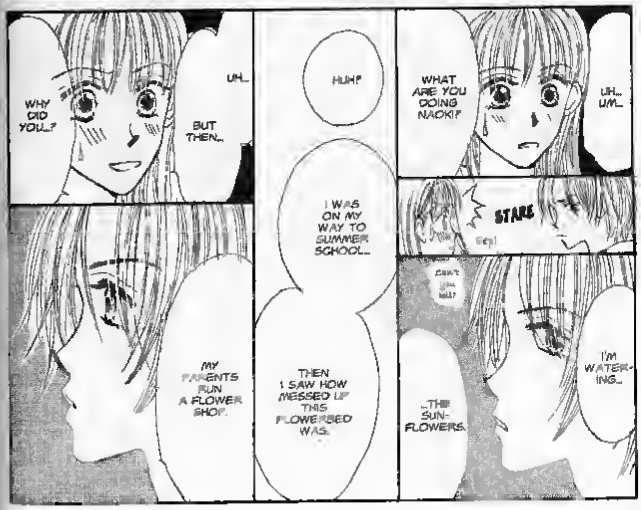

SUMMER VACATION
HARUKA SHIRAISHI, 15 YEARS OLD.
Sigh
...ALWAYS READY TO GO WITH THE FLOW
"HARUKA, WOULD YOU? PLEASE?"
"UH... SURE"
"PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL?"
"NO WAY TOO MUCH WORK."
"I'M TOO BUSY"
Not me!

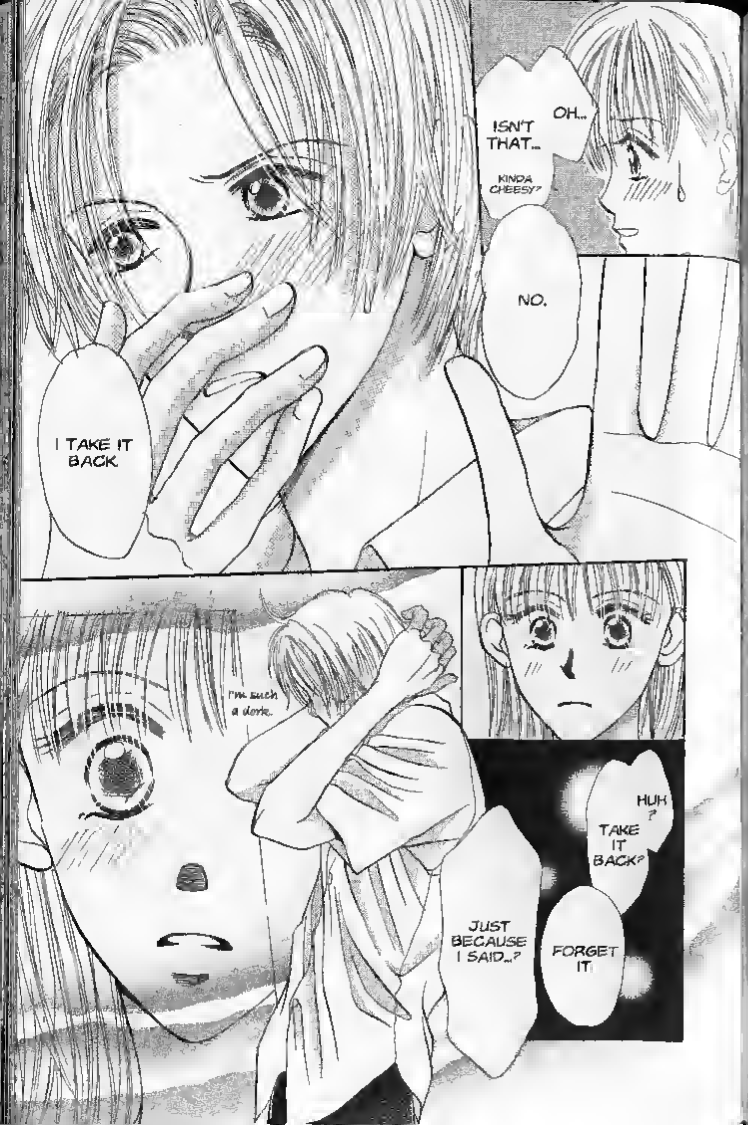
...WITH THAT TYPE OF GUY WHAT WAS HE DOING THERE?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL...
THAT WAS TERRIFYING!
BYE!
YOOOMMM
I'm a drowned rat!
ACTUALLY... WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING?
The faucet was broken, and...
Huh.
Where's my...?
See you tomorrow!
That's it for today!

HE'S KIND OF INTIMIDATING TOO POPULAR
WE'RE CLASS-MATES, BUT WE'VE NEVER TALKED
YOU USUALLY SLEEP THROUGH CLASS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HEY
I DON'T HAVE A TOWEL...
OH.
I'VE GOT ONE I'M OKAY
I HAVE AN EXTRA SHIRT IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE...
HUH? OH... NO THIS WILL DRY
YEAH.
SORRY
I DIDN'T SEE YOU.
?!
NAOKI MAKISE?
BLUB BLUB BLUB

A laughing...
I'll turn off the water.
...
THEY JUST DON'T MATCH.
FLOWERS AND NAOKI...
...IT'S THE ONLY ONE THAT HASN'T BLOOMED YET?
THAT ONE...
STAAARE
...COURAGE IS ALL THEY NEED
WELL, ASIDE FROM WATER AND FERTILIZER...
C-COWARDLY...?
OH...
Are you staring at me...?
...THIS ONE'S COWARDLY
YEAH...

ARE YOUR CLOTHES...
...DRY?
UH... YEAH.
WELL, THEY MUST BE, BY NOW
HE...
HE'S STILL THERE?!
...
FSSH


WHY DID YOU...?
UH...
BUT THEN...
MY PARENTS RUN A FLOWER SHOP.
HUH?
I WAS ON MY WAY TO SUMMER SCHOOL...
THEN I SAW HOW MESSED UP THIS FLOWERBED WAS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NAOKI?
UH... UM...
STARE
Eep!
DON'T YOU MIND?
...THE SUN-FLOWERS.
I'M WATERING...


I TAKE IT BACK
NO.
OH...
ISN'T THAT...
KINDA CHEESY?
I'm such a dork.
JUST BECAUSE I SAID...?
HUH?
TAKE IT BACK?
FORGET IT.

I'VE HEARD HOW PLANTS GROW BETTER WHEN YOU TALK TO THEM.
HUH?
UM...
WHAT ABOUT...
...LOVE?
I was just babbling
REALLY?
THEN SHALL WE NAME IT?
OKAY, THEN...
"SUNNY."

MAYBE I NEED TO TALK TO HER MORE?
COME ON, SUNNY!
The name stuck.
GO FOR IT, SUNNY!
He he he!
SUNNY WON'T BLOOM.
...HE SEEMS SO DIFFERENT...
DURING SUMMER SCHOOL...
I can't tell anymore about Sunny.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE SO DISTANT IN CLASS.
I wonder why she won't bloom.
HEY, DON'T YOU KIDS RUIN THE FLOWER-BED!

FROM THEN ON...
When she'll bloom.
Aren't sunflowers supposed to be facing the sun?
That's why.
They face east when they bloom.
...ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...
Hey, he's right.
...ME AND I WOULD END UP TALKING EVERY DAY
Sun-flowers
HM.
HOLD THIS
OH, I GUESS... I'D END UP BEING HIS HELPER.
AMAZINGLY...

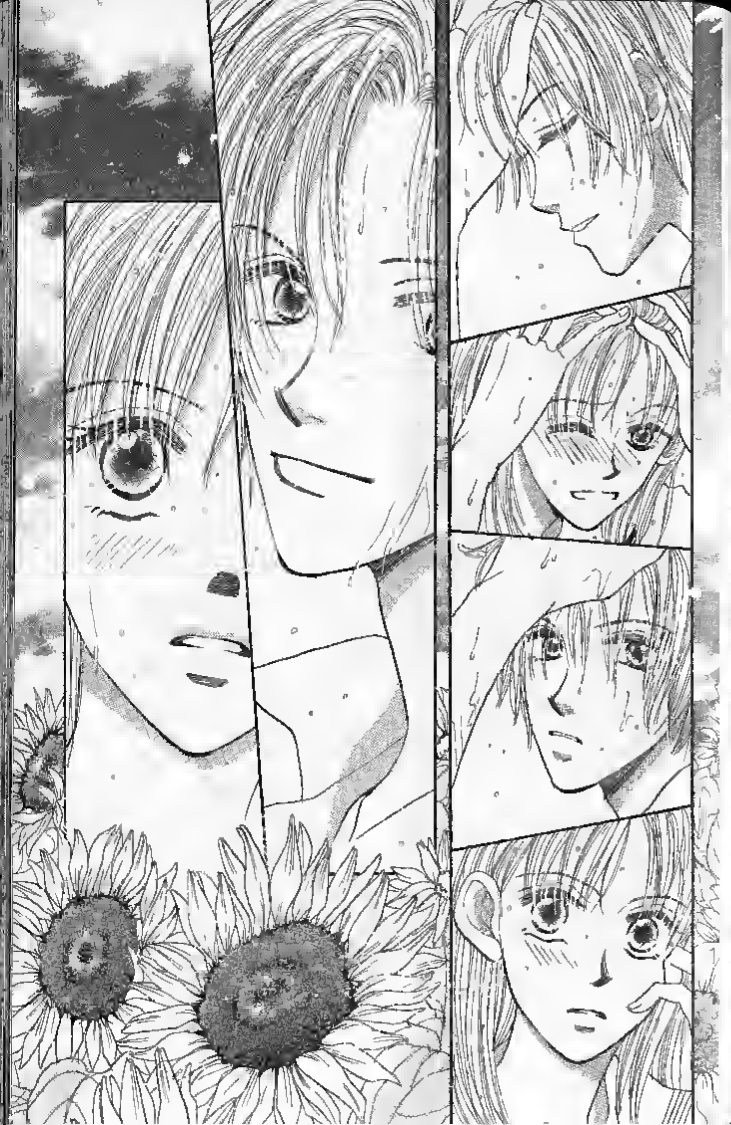
03

"Second Impression"

I began with the idea of drawing a boy with doe eyes. It turned out be challenging (Although I don't think I've ever done a story that wasn't challenging...)

I was terrible in elementary and junior high school when it came to caring for plants. They just wouldn't grow right... Maybe they needed more love.

A hasty retreat!
H--
HEY...!
HA HA HA HA HA!
DAMN
STOP!
C'MON!
You're in trouble, Hanako!
I WAS WATERING THE PLANTS, BUT MY HAND SLIPPED!
...
I'M SORRY!
WHAT THE--?!
WELL THEN...
ARE YOU COMING OVER HERE?
HM?
YOU LITTLE..!
AH!
SPLOOOSH
ARRGH!



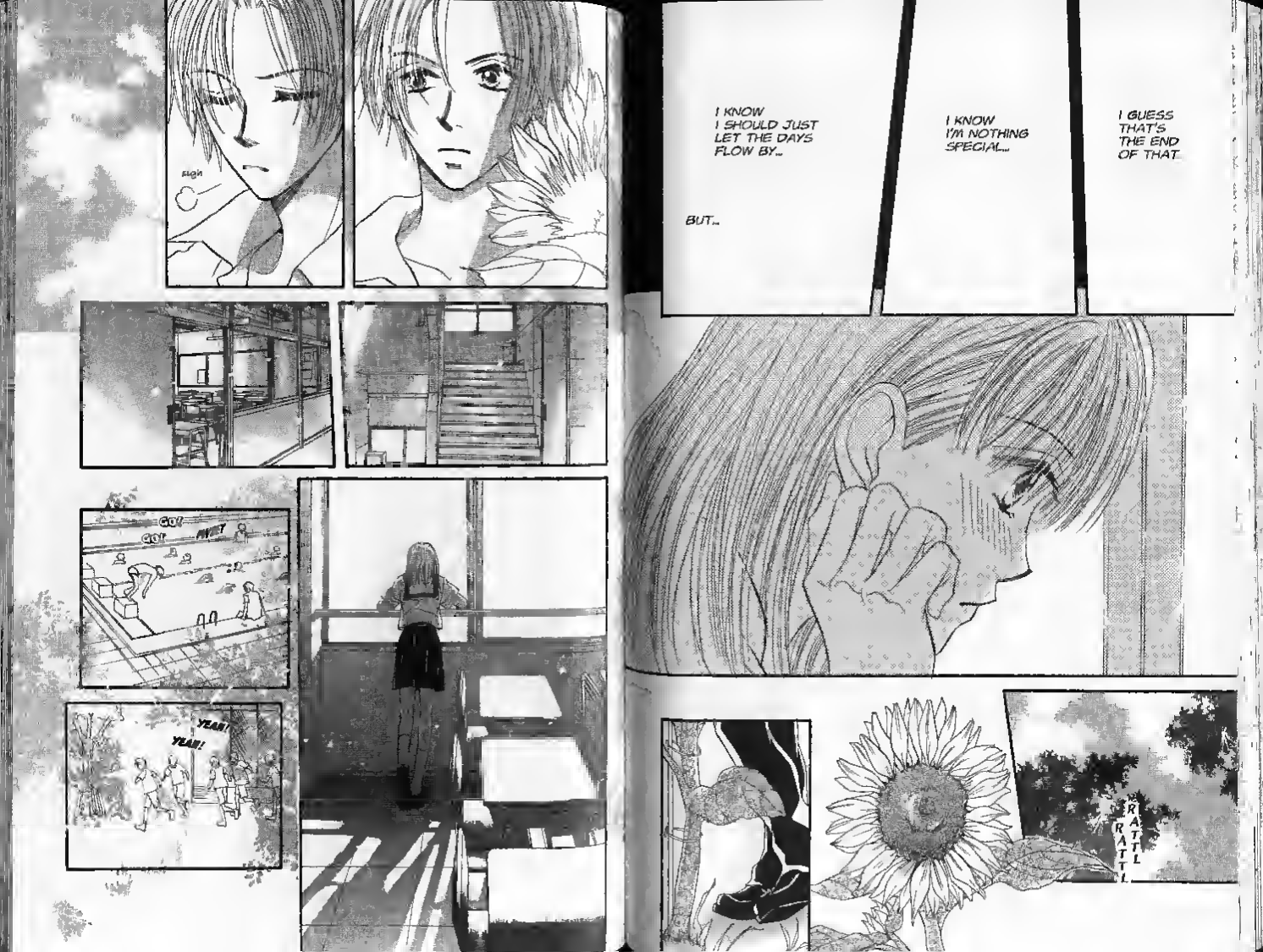
GEEZ.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU JUST DID!
HE WAS STEAMING...
SO I THOUGHT I'D COOL HIM OFF!
BUT NOW, HE'S EVEN MORE HOT AND BOTHERED!
HA HA HA HA HA
YEAH, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.
DON'T LAUGH! YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE NOW!

IT WAS ONE POWERFUL SECOND IMPRESSION.
..THAT'S A SIGHT I NEVER SAW IN CLASS.
WOW...
I NEVER KNEW..
..HE COULD LAUGH LIKE THAT.
HIS HAIR GLOWING IN THE SUNSHINE..
..AGAINST THE BLUE SKY AND YELLOW SUNFLOWERS..

Walking in the summer
YEAH, YEAH. I USUALLY HAD MATH FIRST PERIOD
MATH, RIGHT? DID YOU EVER NOT SKIP CLASS?!
HA HA HA!
COOL!
YEP
HEY, NAOKI! YOU IN SUMMER SCHOOL TOO?
!!
HEH.
TO GO BEHIND THE FLOWERBED AND HOOK UP WITH THAT CHICK, RIGHT?
IT'S HARD TO ROLL OUT OF BED THAT EARLY!
Naoki!
Hi!
WELL... MAYBE
LOOKS LIKE YOU COME TO SUMMER SCHOOL EARLY ENOUGH!
uh huh
I GET IT

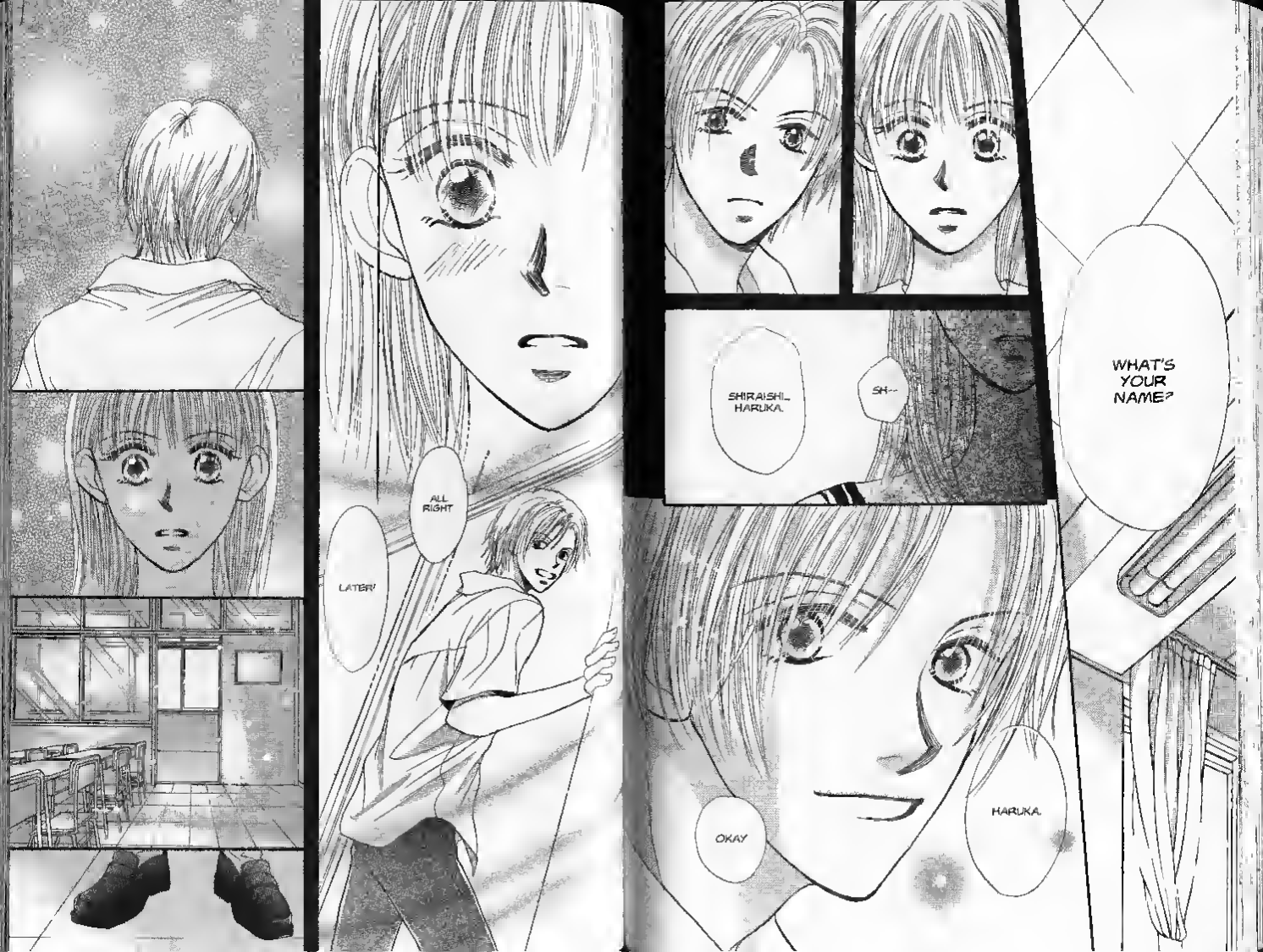
SUNNY BLOOMED!
WHOA! NO WAY!
CLASSES AND MY MEETING ARE ABOUT TO START
DID HE OVERSLEEP?
...HE ISN'T HERE YET
NAOKI...
I WANT TO SEE HOW HE REACTS!
I THINK HE ENTERS THROUGH THE SOUTH GATE
LET'S SEE...
Want to tell him about Summer?

THE COMMITTEE ADVISOR WILL BE OUT TOMORROW, SO...
...THE SUMMER SESSION IS OVER!
AWRIGHT!
WELL...
I MEAN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME.
Just believe, I guess.
NOTHIN' SERIOUS HUH?
HOW BORING.
What ever
YOU CALLED HER "BUNNY"
I SAW YOU GUYS WHILE I WAS RUNNING
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE GIRL.
SHE LOOKED KIND OF DOWNY
NO WAY!
WHAT...?
MAYBE?.. SO HER FIRST NAME'S BUNNY RIGHT?
BEATS ME...
HUH?
...MAYBE
SHIRAISHI ...?
...SHE'S IN MY CLASS...
"SUNNY" "BUNNY" CLOSE ENOUGH.
Huh?
WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT CLASS IS SHE IN?
AM I WRONG? WHO WAS SHE?

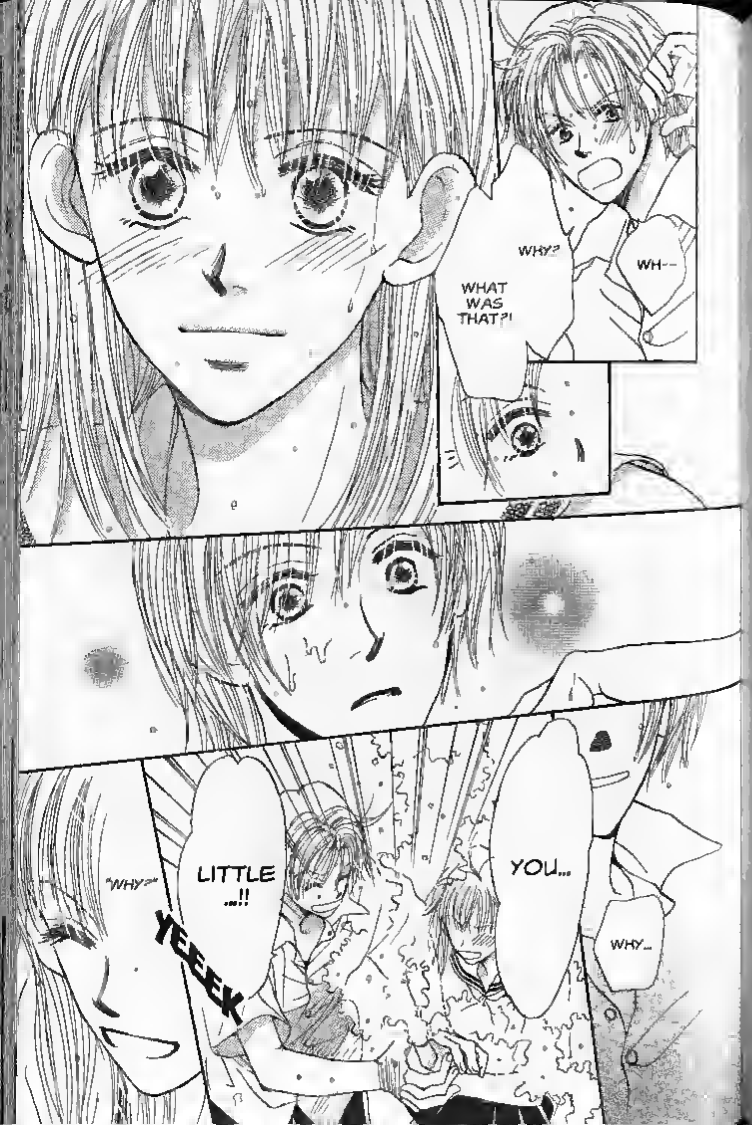

sigh
I KNOW I SHOULD JUST LET THE DAYS FLOW BY...
BUT...
I KNOW I'M NOTHING SPECIAL...
I GUESS THAT'S THE END OF THAT
GO!
GO!
AWE!
YEAH!
YEAH!
RATTL
RATTL

WELL... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
HMM.
...BECAUSE MY LAST COMMITTEE MEETING WAS TODAY
SEE YA
HEY!
I WANTED TO ASK YOU...
HOW ELSE COULD IT BE?
I MEAN...
...I KNEW IT WOULD END, RIGHT?

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WELL... I WAS JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE
...
YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP, SO I THOUGHT YOU WENT HOME
SO THAT'S IT... I WON'T BE SEEING YOU AROUND...
IT'S GREAT
ANYWAY... TODAY...
I KNOW SUNNY BLOOMED

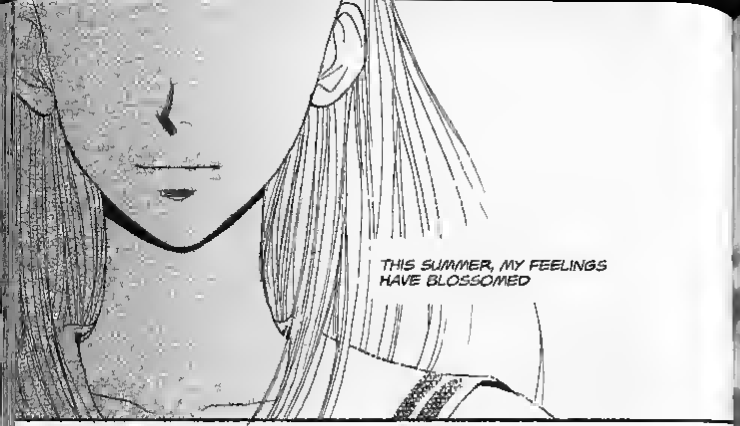

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
SHIRAISHI... HARUKA.
SH--
HARUKA.
OKAY
ALL RIGHT
LATER!

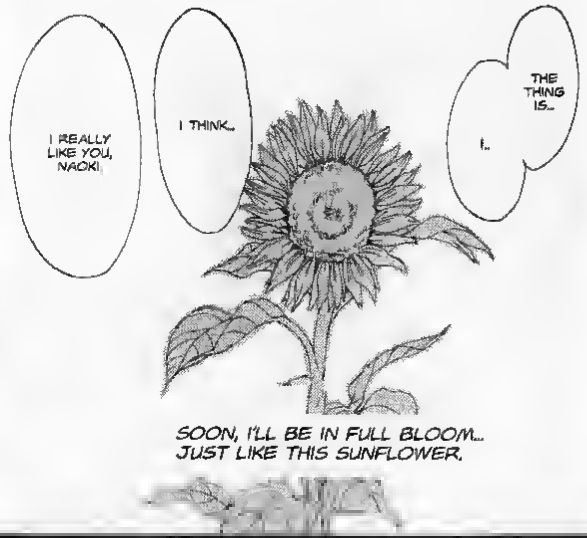
THEN...
...IN FRONT OF THE SUNFLOWERS IN THE BACK GARDEN...
I MET NAOKI...
We're in the gym today, right?
Hi!
...I DIDN'T MIND HAVING TO GO TO SCHOOL DURING VACATION AT ALL...
PLASH
"I WAS WORRIED ABOUT SUNNY"
OKAY...
THAT'S WHAT I'LL SAY
I bathe with...
WILL HE SAY "WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?"
WHAT DO I DO? I'M NOT SURE MYSELF


WHAT WAS THAT?!
WHY?
WH--
YOU...
WHY..
LITTLE ..!!
"WHY?"
YEEEK

SORRY..
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE HERE
I MEAN..
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
OH!
...

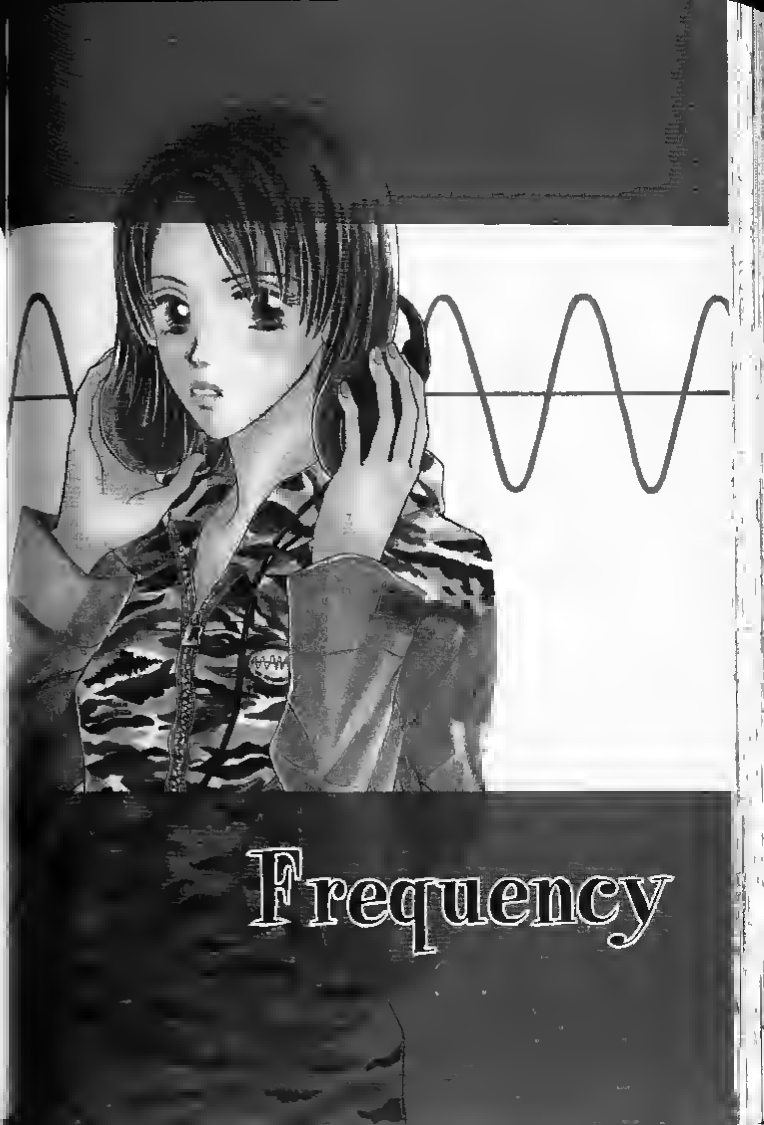
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
SPLOSH
?!




Second Impression
The End

STUDY HALL
New Seating Chart
HEY
Argh!
I'M NEXT TO MORIHIRO.
SO WHAT? THAT'S GOOD
He's the class rep.
I have all of your grades memorized, right?
THAT MEANS YOU'LL REALLY HAVE TO STUDY.
Your grades might improve
HMM...
THE THING IS, I DON'T REALLY LIKE HIM
HE'S SUCH A "MODEL STUDENT." IT'S OPPRESSIVE.
ALL RIGHT, THEN! WILL EVERYONE FOLLOW THE NEW SEATING ARRANGEMENT?
GOOD CONDUCT. POISED.
THE PERFECT CLASS REPRESENTATIVE.
THAT WAS MORIHIRO S. WAKI'S REPUTATION.



# Frequency

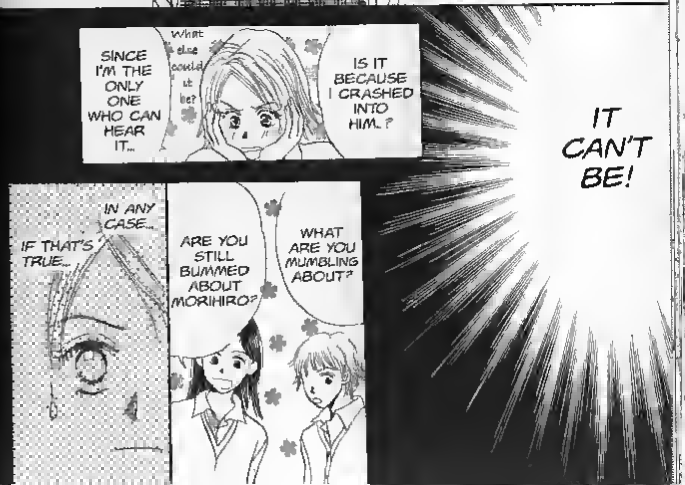
JUST BE CAREFUL, KAORI, ALL RIGHT?
SEE?
HE'S KIND
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
..OKAY..
GREEZ.
GET OUT OF MY WAY, YOU IDIOT
OW! I HAVE A BUZZER
YEAH
WELL, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I DON'T LIKE..
I'D RATHER HAVE HIM YELL, "GET OUT OF MY WAY, YOU IDIOT!"
REALLY?

OH!
H--
HEY!
NOK
WELL, YOU'RE NOT SWEET AND QUIET LIKE SHI-ZUKA..
YEAH, YOU NEVER SHUT YOUR TRAP!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
HA HA HA
SO, KAORI..
HOW DO YOU THINK HE FEELS ABOUT SITTING NEXT TO A LOUDMOUTH LIKE YOU?
WATCH OUT!
WOMP
KLANG
I--
I'M SORRY.
OUCH!
OW!
..IT'S ALL RIGHT

WE'RE JUST CHANGING SEATS
GROW UP!
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A FIRST GRADER
I'M NEAR-SIGHTED. CAN I CHANGE MY SEAT?
HEY, MORI-HIRO!
SURE! GO AHEAD AND ASK SOMEONE TO SWITCH!
WHAT A STUPID QUESTION
UH...
WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S MORIHIRO'S VOICE...
BUT WHERE'S IT COMING FROM?
DON'T "HUH" ME! I HEARD YOU SAY IT!
HUH?
WHAT?!
DON'T YOU CALL ME AN IDIOT!
SAY... WHAT?
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
KAORI, WHAT'S GOING ON?
GIVE ME A BREAK.
SHE'S A FREAK!
HE DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING
I didn't hear a word
HUH?
AHA! I KNEW IT!
Heh heh
Sure
Sorry about that!
Really?
WHA...?
HUH?

Quiet! Who's the class rep here?
OH! SORRY, SIR!
GRRR
SHUT UP, SACK-MOUTH!
HE'S BEEN...
PUTTING ON AN ACT?!
DID YOU MAKE THAT UP?
"SACK-MOUTH" ...?
WHAT IS IT, KAORI?
SCRAPE
HMM

ARE THESE...
...HIS THOUGHTS?!
I WISH THEY'D ALL SHUT UP
HEY, QUIET! THERE'S A CLASS NEXT DOOR.
Uncle!
WAHAHAHA
THOSE IDIOTS.
Sorry. I still have some announcements to make.
Can I leave Morihiro?
AW, C'MON!


SINCE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HEAR IT...
What else could it be?
IS IT BECAUSE I CRASHED INTO HIM.?
IT CAN'T BE!
IN ANY CASE...
IF THAT'S TRUE...
ARE YOU STILL BUMMED ABOUT MORIHIRO?
WHAT ARE YOU MUMBLING ABOUT?

HEY, K..ORI!!
It's okay I'll walk 'till tomorrow
Sorry! I forgot my money for the field trip!
DON'T EVEN COME!
...THAT'S BROADCASTING THE INNER SECRETS OF MORIHIRO'S MIND!
wh-what?
I for-got, hee...
WHOA!
...HE IS ALWAYS REALLY BUSY
COME TO THINK OF IT...
YOU'RE KIDDING!
WHAT?
HAND THIS TO MORIHIRO SO HE CAN COMPILE THE SURVEY RESULTS
Student Questionnaire
"WHAT A PAIN!"
IF I SAW THIS I'D PROBABLY SAY...
MAN.. WHAT A PAIN!
ALL RIGHT, THANKS!
FROM THE TEACHER?
OH, GEEZ! DID I SAY IT OUT LOUD?!
Silent mouth?
WH--
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
THAT SHOOK HIM UP.
heh
HM. X=2
OHO
I see.
HIS THOUGHTS ARE NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT WHAT CAN I DO?
IT'S LIKE I'M TUNING INTO A RADIO STATION...
I WISH CLASS WOULD END
..ME TOO
THIS COULD BE INTERESTING..
?
MODEL STUDENT? GIMME A BREAK.

...I DON'T MIND IT THAT MUCH.
I CAN'T PRETEND I DON'T KNOW...
IT'S FUNNY
...
BESIDES...
ARGH! WHAT A PAIN!
YOU ENTER THE RESULTS... HERE.
AND...
YOU'RE SO FORTH-RIGHT!
I HEARD YOU THINK "SIMPLE-MINDED," JERK.
...SIMPLE-MINDED"
That's not it.
KAORI, YOU'RE SO...
You can leave
...
OH. SORRY

I'll play with him a little.
I BET YOU THINK THIS IS A PAIN.
BE HONEST, MORIHIRO.
Shiori
I KNEW IT!
HUH?
What?
THEN WHY DON'T YOU HELP OUT?
YOU'RE LYING.
YOU DON'T WANT THIS STUFF PILED ON YOU!
WELL... Ha ha
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
OH...
IT'S ALL RIGHT I WANT TO
EH?
OKAY
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HALF OF THIS
Good point.
OH YEAH.
HUH?

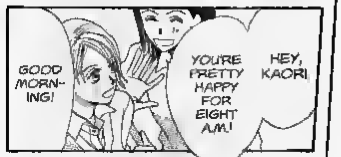
Time to go home!
I JUST HAVE TO TAKE THIS TO THE FACULTY OFFICE.
FUP
OF COURSE, I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT.
HMM.
Gotta keep it secret.
BECAUSE I COULD HEAR WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO HIDE...
...I STARTED THINKING HE WAS ACTUALLY AN OKAY GUY
I ACTUALLY SORT OF ENJOYED IT
I felt useful.
THANKS FOR HELPING ME WITH THIS THING
♪
Oh the sunset

THAT WOULD BE RUDE...
OH, COME ON! I KNOW BEING THE CLASS REP ISN'T EASY. ESPE-CIALLY WITH OUR CHAOTIC HOME-ROOM!
HEY...
WHY DON'T YOU SAY WHAT YOU REALLY THINK?
SOMETIMES THINGS GO MORE SMOOTHLY IF YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT
YEAH, BUT...
YOU KNOW... HONESTY CAN BE A PAIN, TOO.
WEIRD
SO, FROM THAT POINT...
THAT WAS THE TRUTH...
I can tell.
...IF I KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.
WAIT, I MEAN...

SLAM
YEAH, AND NOW IT'S LOST! IF A TEACHER FINDS IT FIRST...
HE BROUGHT HIS PET TARANTULA TO SCHOOL?!
BAM BAM BAM BAM
WA HA HA HA HA
...then he's screwed!
Has anyone seen it?!
What if it bites someone?
This is crazy!
Who has a pet tarantula, anyway?
I can't believe he released it in the locker room!

You better help me find it quick or I'm in trouble!
TOOM TOOM
DOES MORIHIRO LIKE THEM?
some british band.
WHO DOES THIS SONG?
NO WAY! HE'S MENTALLY SINGING ALONG?!
To the school p.a. system!
HEE HEE!

I CAN USE MY VOICE... AND PRIVATELY SHARE HIS



...OUT LOUD.

I CAN HUM ALONG WITH HIM..

MAYBE..

I DON'T WANT TO GO OUT AS A FAVOR!
MORIHIRO HAS A CRUSH ON SHIZUKA.
SHE'S THE CLASS SEVEN REP.
WHAT CLASS IS SHE IN?
AND HER NAME?
SHI-ZUKA ANDO
SO NOW I KNOW...
WHO WAS SHE?
OH, ANOTHER CLASS REP
OH, YEAH.
...SO, ABOUT THE EMERGENCY CLASS REP MEETING?
IS MORIHIRO SAWAKI HERE?
I KNOW YOU HAVE A DATE.
AND TO-MORROW, I...
REALLY... I OWE YOU A FAVOR. I'LL TAKE YOU OUT!
SURE!
THANKS!
OKAY, I'LL ORGANIZE THEM AND TURN THEM IN.
I'M SORRY... IT'S THIS GUY'S BIRTHDAY.
THESE ARE THE PAPERS I HAVE TO SUBMIT.

YOU'RE REALLY WEIRD.
...THAT'S NOT IT.
I appreciate it, but...
YOU HAVE COMMITTEE WORK, RIGHT?
I CAN HELP OUT TODAY, TOO.
...
DON'T WANT HELP?
You sure talk to yourself a lot.
Huh?
I WISH YOU WOULD JUST TELL THE TRUTH.
It's Shizuka.
UGH...
WHICH ONE?
VIP
SORRY!
I FORGOT A PAGE...

"SOMETIMES THINGS GO MORE SMOOTHLY IF YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT."
IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY T_KEN...
WHAT A FOOL, MORIHIRO.
HA HA HA
"SHIZUKA," EH?
ARE YOU SERIOUS...?
Am I really Mr. Perfect?
Bye!
HUH?
WHAT REASON IS THERE FOR ME TO BE UNHAPPY?
WHAT IS THIS?
WHY AM I SUDDENLY FEELING SAD?

I...DON'T KNOW...
DON'T ASK HIM THAT!
...I WANTED TO ASK YOUR ADVICE
WHAT KIND OF PRESENT...
...SHOULD I GET THIS GUY?
OH PLEASE, YOU'RE A GUY!
YOU DON'T EVEN...
...CONSIDER ME A GUY
YOU KNOW... SOMETHING THAT'D IMPRESS HIM?
STOP ASKING ME.
GIVE IT A REST!
NO IDEAS?
UMM...

WHAT?!
IS THAT YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
OH, I GOT IT
IT'S THE QUESTIONS FROM PAGE FIVE
What made her think we were an item?
I'M KAORI.
OH HI
SHIZUKA ANDO, CLASS SEVEN
I'VE KNOWN MORIHIRO SINCE JUNIOR HIGH. Same class every year
OH...
YOU WERE ALWAYS SO PERFECT
HOW SO?
ALWAYS GIVING ME ADVICE AND ALL
OH! RIGHT...
REALLY?
N-NO! NO WAY!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
UN-FORTU-NATELY NOT.

UH...
HOW COULD YOU JUST PRETEND THE CONVERSATION DIDN'T BOTHER YOU?
LOOK, I...
DON'T LIE ABOUT IT!
YOU'RE SUCH A CHUMP
I COULDN'T STAND TO WATCH IT!
WH...
WHAT DO YOU...?
YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON HER!

YOU ARE SO ANNOYING.
WHAT WAS THAT...?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH HER!
WHY...?
I'M GOING
I-I'M SORRY
WHAT...?
UH...
I MEAN...

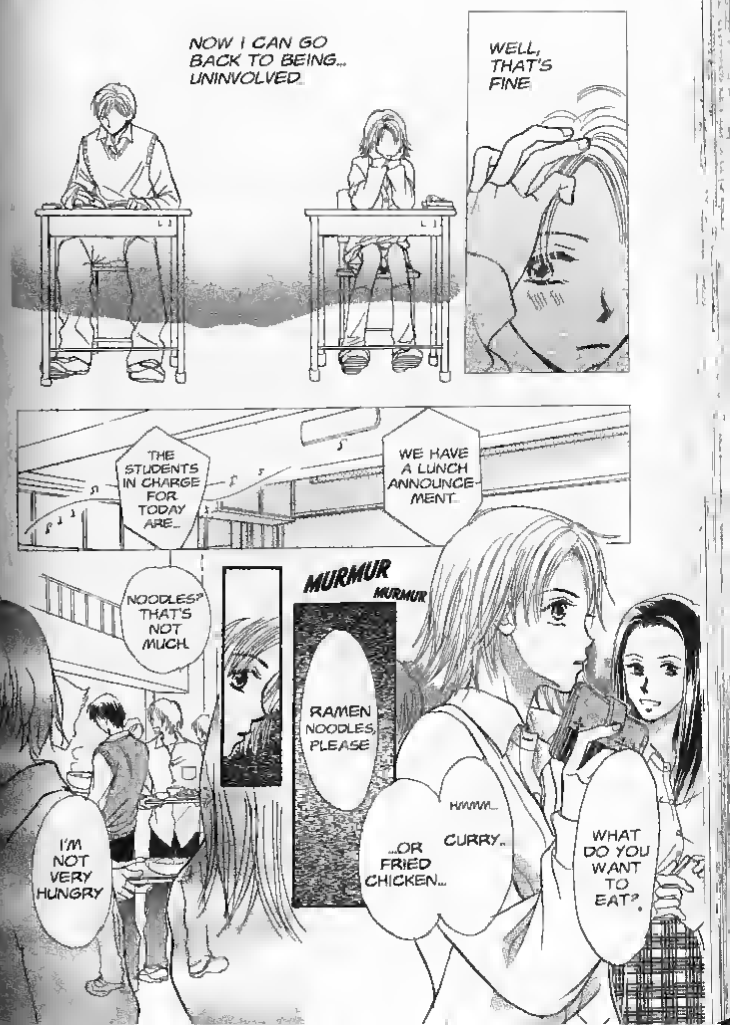
LEAVE!
WHUMP
GO AWAY
FORGET IT.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL HER?
SHUT UP!
oof!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
LEAVE ME ALONE.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW I FEEL.

SO...
...I GUESS I GOT MY WISH. HIS THOUGHTS ARE GONE.
WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS THAT?
I MEAN...
A BRIEF SPELL OF MAGIC?
Was that bump a psychic antenna?
Hey the bump on my head's gone

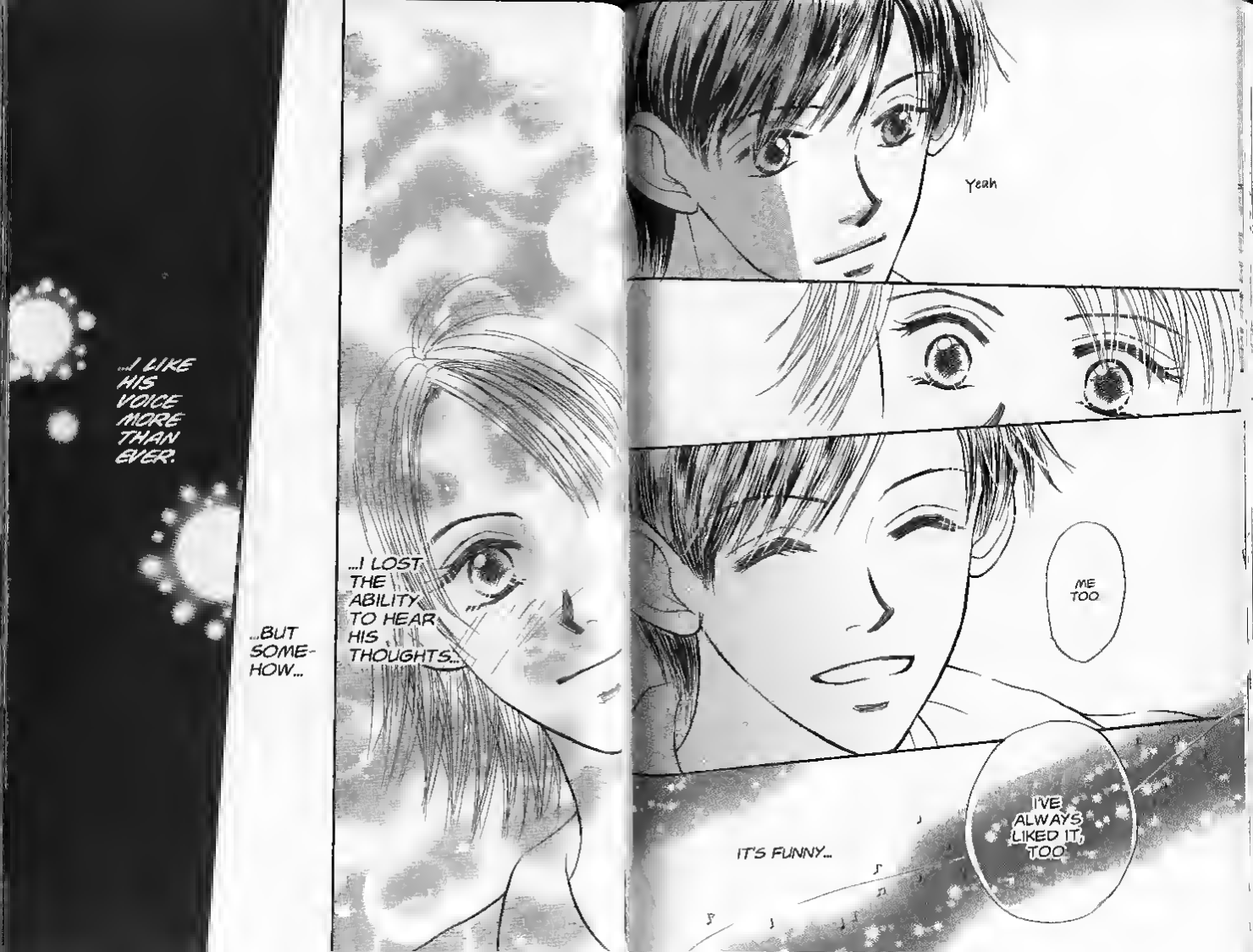
I WISH I'D NEVER HEARD HIS THOUGHTS!

That's not what you said you were getting!
RAMEN NOODLES.
HAVE YOU DECIDED, KAORI?
HOW ABOUT AFTER LUNCH?
GIVE ME THE ANSWER TO PROBLEM TWO. I'M STUCK!
WHAT?
HEY! MORIHIRO!
TURN THEM IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THE CLASSICS NOTES ARE DUE AT THE END OF THE DAY
WA HA HA HA
Here's mine.
I'LL ASK, BUT YOU'LL PROBABLY BE PENALIZED
WELL...
I forgot mine.
Am I in trouble?
KAORI!
KAORI
THE MATH TEACHER
OKAY, THANKS
WHO?
MORIHIRO, THE TEACHER WANTS TO SEE YOU.


NOW I CAN GO BACK TO BEING... UNINVOLVED.
WELL, THAT'S FINE
THE STUDENTS IN CHARGE FOR TODAY ARE...
WE HAVE A LUNCH ANNOUNCEMENT.
NOODLES? THAT'S NOT MUCH.
I'M NOT VERY HUNGRY
MURMUR
MURMUR
RAMEN NOODLES, PLEASE
...OR FRIED CHICKEN...
HMMM...
CURRY.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT?

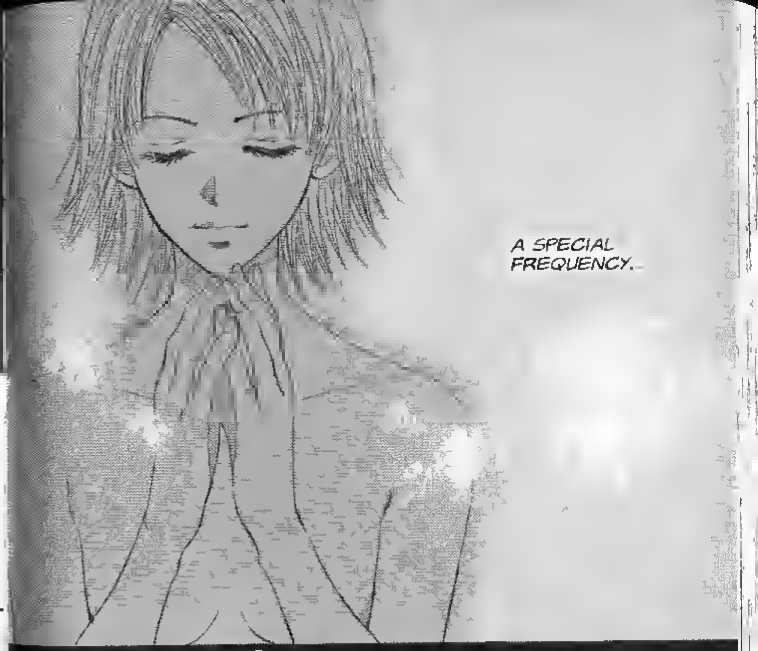
MORIHIRO!
LET ME HELP
HEY, KAORI!
OH!
WHAT?
I WAS ASKING YOU FOR YESTER-DAY'S ASSIGN-MENT!
WHERE'S YOUR HEAD TODAY?
IT'S BECAUSE I CAN HEAR...
...THAT VOICE
NOW FOR A MUSICAL INTER LUDE...
FROM OASIS...
Hey, you're tuning out again.
HEY...
THIS SONG...

IT WAS PLAYING WHEN WE LEFT SCHOOL THE OTHER DAY.
SAY, MORI HIRO...
WHAT'S THE NAME OF THIS SONG?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN... "TUNING IN"?
TM
TM
TM
...CAN I...
...ASK YOU SOME-THING?
...
TM
TM
TM
I THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY COOL.
...EVER SINCE THEN
IT'S BEEN STUCK IN MY HEAD...
HM?
WELL...
...I'VE BEEN TUNING IN LATELY.
HUH?
...THAT OBVIOUS?
WAS IT...


...I LIKE HIS VOICE MORE THAN EVER.
...BUT SOME-HOW...
...I LOST THE ABILITY TO HEAR HIS THOUGHTS...
Yeah
ME TOO
I'VE ALWAYS LIKED IT, TOO.
IT'S FUNNY...

YEAH. IT'S AN AMAZING SONG
ACTUALLY...
I ALREADY KNOW IT IS.
I'M SURE IT'LL BE GREAT.
NO...

I WAS TALKING ABOUT US.
THE END


A SPECIAL FREQUENCY...

I WANT TO HEAR IT OVER AND OVER
I'LL LOAN YOU MY CD
GOOD.

CHRISTMAS ALWAYS REMINDS ME OF A CERTAIN SOMETHING...

I HAVE A MAKE-UP CLASS THAT DAY. UNBELIEVABLE.
SHE GOES TO THAT WOMEN'S COLLEGE, RIGHT? IT'S A MIRACLE IT WORKED OUT.
SAKU'S SPENDING CHRISTMAS EVE WITH SOME GIRL NAMED EVE. HE'S SO PSYCHED.
See you in the New Year!

DO YOU STILL REMEMBER THAT CHRISTMAS DAY?

Merry Christmas!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
ANY-WAY, THIS IS BORING.
NO WAY.
SPECIAL ISSUE: "YOU, TOO, CAN CONTACT A UFO!"
THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS IN THIS BOOK!
UFO?

WE WERE SIXTH GRADERS. WE GOT BORED PRETTY QUICKLY.

THIS CHRISTMAS PARTY WAS ORGANIZED FOR LATCHKEY KIDS WHOSE PARENTS CAME HOME LATE.

HE MUST HAVE BEEN PAYING FOR IT.
I SAW HER WITH A GUY WHO LOOKED LIKE A BUSINESS-MAN
THEY SAY HER MOM RAN OFF WITH ANOTHER MAN
HEY, COME ON! STOP
Ha ha ha ha!
I WONDER HOW MUCH SHE CHARGES
EVERY TIME I SEE YOU, I WONDER...
...I DON'T KNOW
SHE WAS JUST A REGULAR KID
WAS SHE ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
SO...?
SO?
KENGO, YOU'RE FROM NISHIMACHI. GROWING UP, YOU TWO MUSTVE GONE TO THE SAME SCHOOLS

OH.
YEAH.
OKAY...
WHAT DO WE DO? WE'RE HOLDING HANDS
CHEEK
"PERA, RURA, RARUBA..."
"SPECIAL WORDS TO COMMUNICATE WITH A UFO"
IT'S WRITTEN HERE SEE?
How to Summon a UFO
MOM
CHANT?
NOW...
WE HAVE TO RECITE THE CHANT
You're an accomplice now!
COME ON! HURRY!
?
WE'RE SUMMONING A UFO!
UH... HEY WANT TO COME?
MAN... I HOPE SHE WON'T TATTLE
AND SO WE WENT UP TO THE ROOF OF THE APARTMENT BUILDING ON THE HILL
BRRR! IT'S FREEZING!
OKAY! FORM A CIRCLE OF HANDS.
TAKE 'EM OFF
WHAT ABOUT OUR GLOVES?

WHEN I GAZED UP AT THAT LIGHT...
...IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER HELD SOMEONE'S HAND.
BUT... I REMEMBER HOW EXCITED I GOT.
See that?!
Yeah!
I'M SURE IT WAS JUST A PLANE OR SOMETHING
See you, Brieanda!
BYE!
SAKI, DO YOU REMEMBER THAT SILLY NIGHT?
UGH. I DESERVE A RAISE.
Don't forget the menus!
OKAY.
KENGO, THIS IS FOR TABLE SIX.
AND BUS TABLE TWO.
Oh.
YEP!
BUT...
KRAK
IT REALLY WAS SILLY.
DON'T LAUGH! YOU'LL UPSET THE UFO.
HA HA HA HA
THIS IS DUMB!
That looks weird!
SSSS
PFFF
OOOHHH

Are you in high school?
Waiting for someone?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO SIT THERE...?
HEY, IT'S SNOWING!
I hope it doesn't get worse.
S-SAKI...?
Huh?!
...THANK YOU.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME INSIDE?

"HE MUST HAVE BEEN PAYING FOR IT."
IT'S SAKI...
SHE REFUSED?
EVER SINCE WE ENTERED JUNIOR HIGH I HEARD RUMORS ABOUT SAKI'S FAMILY
THAT'S WHEN SHE GOT HER REPUTATION
NOW, WE DON'T TALK AT ALL.
OH!
YEAH!
Kenji's is that bubble really?

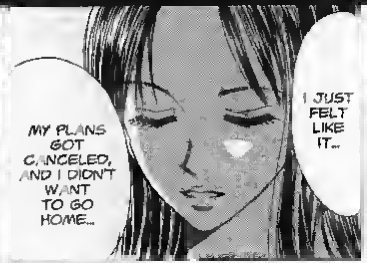
okay..
WHAT DO YOU RECOM-MEND?
THESE ARE TODAY'S SPECIALS
OH.
RIGHT! YEAH.

EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS REALLY WARM AND FRIENDLY, I FELT A LITTLE NERVOUS.
HA HA HA
ACTUALLY, I'VE NEVER EATEN ANYTHING HERE.
oh!
WHICH ONE DO YOU LIKE?
EVERY-THING!

...WE'D HAVE SUCH A NORMAL CONVERSATION
I NEVER EXPECTED..

WHAT WERE YOU DOING SITTING OUT THERE?
HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN SINCE WE SPOKE?

...WHO WAS HE?
THE GUY YOU WERE WITH...


MY PLANS GOT CANCELED, AND I DIDN'T WANT TO GO HOME...
I JUST FELT LIKE IT...

EH?
WELL....
HE'S A FRIEND OF MY FATHER'S. HE'S ALWAYS HELPED US OUT

I MEAN..
I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST THAT I SAW..
OH!

YOU THOUGHT I WAS ON A PAID DATE?
...WHAT?

WE'RE JUST FRIENDS
YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE.
DON'T HIT ON THE CUSTOMERS, KID
No, you've got it all wrong!
BE CAREFUL! GIRLS LIKE THAT WILL STAB YOU IN THE BACK.
THE NEXT DAY...
Summer was so good yesterday
Hey there
Huh
YOU REALLY DO WORK HERE ALL THE TIME.
SAKI...
WHAT DO YOU NEED ALL THAT MONEY FOR?
YOU KNOW... THIS AND THAT.
WELL, NOW'S THE TIME TO RAKE IT IN
...SHE STARTED VISITING EVERY DAY.

I WORK HERE EVERY DAY
UH... IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING HOME...
...YOU CAN DROP BY HERE
WE'RE DOING A SPECIAL PROMOTION...
...OVER CHRISTMAS.
...BY THE WAY...
OH...
Christmas Offer
DISCOUNT COUPONS
THANKS.

* Imitating the sound.

...MY MINIMUM WAGE JOB.

I BEGAN ENJOYING...

TONK
POK
UFO!
KA
UHHH...
UM.
WE SAW ONE BACK THEN, RIGHT?
HEY, WHO WINS THAT ONE?
HA HA HA!
POK
HEY... WAIT...
...UFO?

URGH!
I SCREWED UP! YOU STUMPED ME!
Hey!
YES!
OH!
ACK!
..."WHAT IF?" PHONE BOOTH!
GULLIVER TUNNEL
POK
What?! Everybody's into Darkness!
THIS IS SO NERDY!
HA HA HA!
Hrh!
PLEASE
HEY..
SHE LAUGHED.
POK
GIFTS...
!!
SANTA.
CHRIST-MAS STUFF
OKAY THEN... AN-OTHER ONE
POK
TREE
POK
CAROLS.
POK
REIN-DEER.
UM...

I'M...
SAVING UP TO...
...BUY A TELESCOPE
A TELE SCOPE...?
OH
NOT FOR LOCATING UFOs, OF COURSE
...I KNOW IT'S IMMATURE
...I MEAN...
BLUSH
IT'S JUST...
...I GOT REALLY INTER-ESTED IN SPACE AFTER THAT.
I always was, but...
SO...
IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE IT MUST HAVE BEEN A DREAM.

YOU MEAN...?
SHE REMEMBERS!
BUT THAT CHRIST-MAS...
...WAS SPECIAL.
...SO I DON'T HAVE WARM MEMORIES OF PRESENTS UNDER THE TREE
MY FAMILY'S BEEN SCATTERED SINCE I WAS A KID...
COME ON, YOU KNOW!
THAT WEIRD BOOK!
AMAZING.

HELLO!
HEY, KID.
YOUR GIRL'S ALREADY HERE.
SHE'S NOT "MY GIRL"
UH...
WHAT-EVER. BUT TODAY...
THIS IS... REALLY GREAT.
HMM.
PROMISE ME...
OH, NO.
...YOU'LL TELL ME IF YOU SEE A UFO.
Phew!
THAT'S COOL.
IT'S SO YOU.

WHY NOT?
...
IN ANY CASE, I MADE SURE I WAS AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTMAS...
...SO LET'S HAVE DINNER AT THE HOTEL.
YOU PROMISED ME
TUP
WOULD YOU...
...CARE FOR SOME WATER?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
WE'RE LEAVING.
LET'S GO, SAKI.

SHE'S WITH ANOTHER GUY
LOOKS LIKE HE'S MARRIED
...THAT'S HER BOY-FRIEND
I DON'T WANT TO SAY THIS, BUT...
I THOUGHT SHE WAS ILL.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR WIFE?
IT'S BEEN SO LONG LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT
SHE'S ONLY A HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN, RIGHT?
I don't understand high school kids these days

WHAT ABOUT YOU, DUDE?!
HEY, KENGO
They're customers!
STOP
YOU SHOULDN'T DO THIS.
STOP IT, KENGO!
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED?
STOP IT!
DON'T YOU SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO HER?
SAKI.
IS HE YOUR FRIEND?
LET'S GO
ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH THAT GUY?

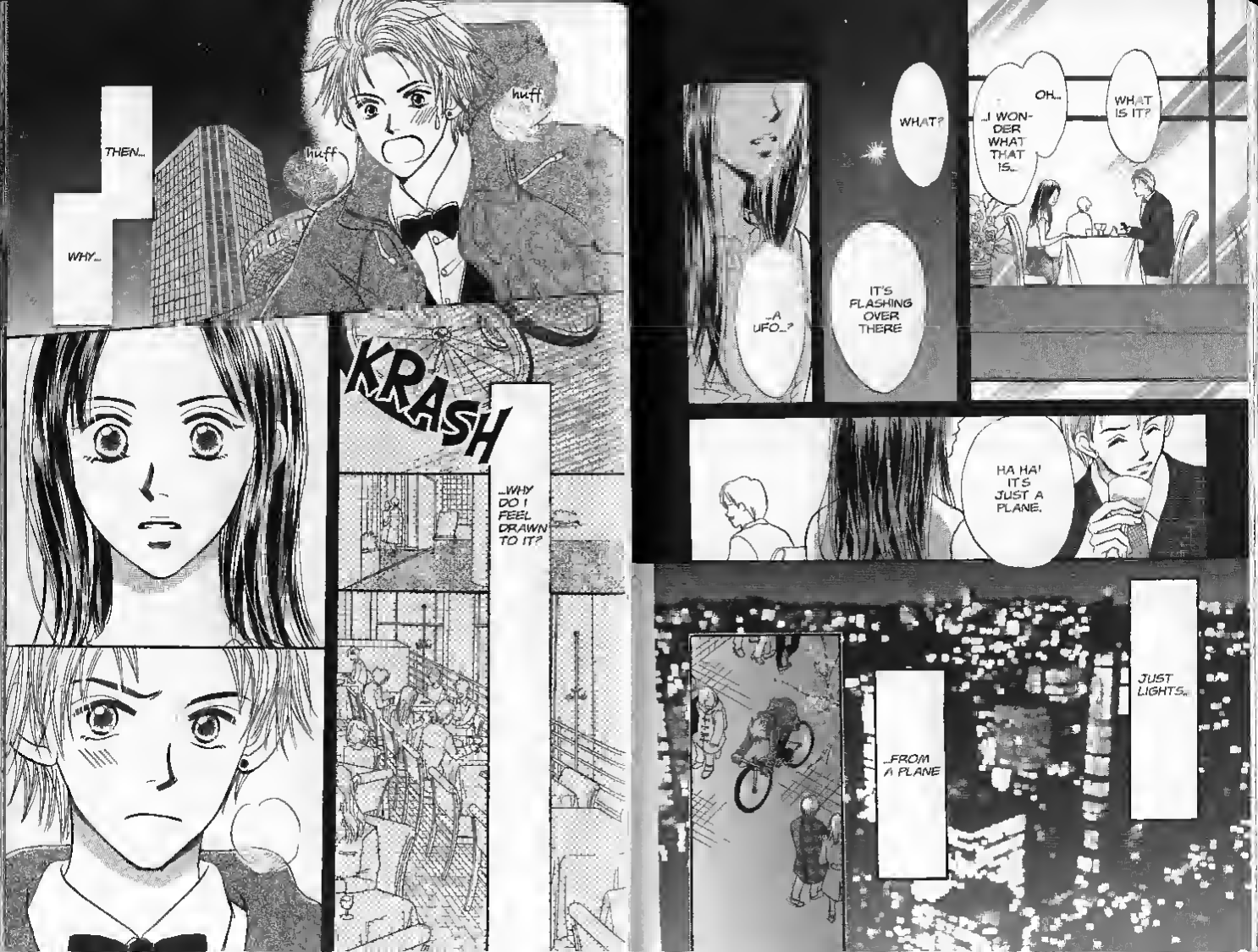
THIS IS A JOKE...
WHAT THE HECK?
Welcome!
Can I get some help?
BOSS, PHONE FOR YOU!
ALL RIGHT
THE 8:30 RESERVATION IS HERE
GET THE PHONE!
BRING TABLE TWO THEIR DESSERTS.

BUT...
KENGO...I WAS HAPPY TO SEE THAT YOU WERE STILL THE SAME KID.
...I'VE CHANGED.
I'M NOT THE GIRL WHO USED TO WONDER WHETHER UFOS EXISTED
NOW I'D RATHER HAVE GROWN-UP THINGS...
...LIKE A NICE DINNER OR A FANCY CHRISTMAS
I'M AN ADULT NOW.

SO THIS IS...
SORRY
...REALITY?

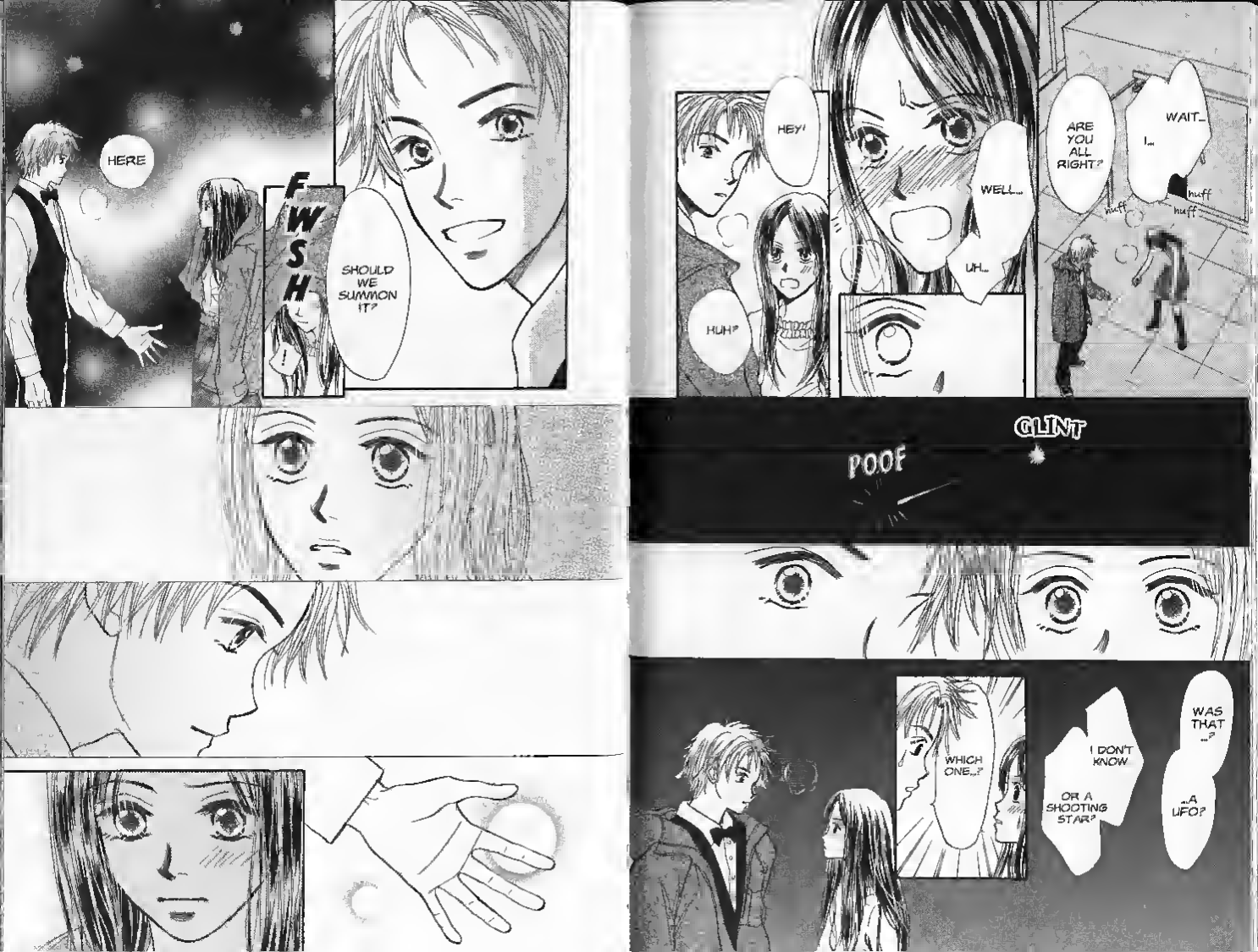
RIGHT NOW...
SHE'S...
GLINT
GLINT
ZHOOS
RUBB
RUBB
GLINT
GLINT

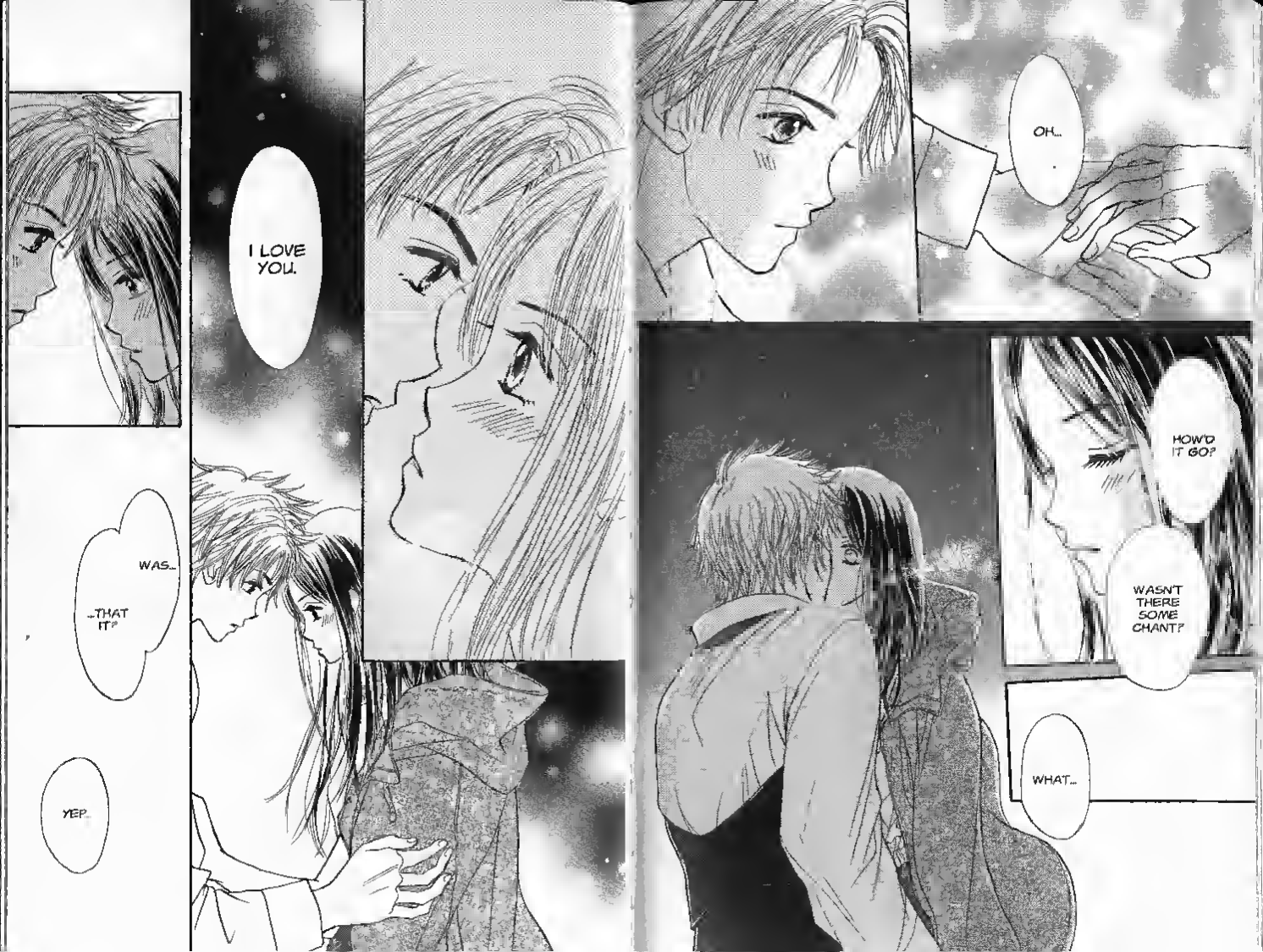
Oh
HEY, KID...
I KNEW IT'D BE THIS WAY, BUT IT MAKES ME SAD
OF COURSE, IT'S FILLED WITH COUPLES.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT
WELL, YOU KNOW HOW WOMEN ARE
LET'S GET A DRINK.
NO THANKS! I'M UNDER-AGE
KLAK
EMPLOYEES
Yes, sir.
Hey, get out here! We need help!
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ALL DAY, RIGHT?
YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK, KENGO.
It's cold in here


THEN...
WHY...
huff
huff
KRASH
...WHY DO I FEEL DRAWN TO IT?
WHAT?
IT'S FLASHING OVER THERE
...A UFO...?
OH...
...I WONDER WHAT THAT IS...
WHAT IS IT?
HA HA! IT'S JUST A PLANE.
JUST LIGHTS...
...FROM A PLANE

...AREN'T WE ALL?
CHAK
AND...
...AREN'T ALL OF US JUST CHILDREN...
...IN THIS VAST, ETERNAL UNIVERSE?

DO YOU WANT TO GO SEE A UFO?
KENGO?
HEY!
H-
C'MON, WE'RE GOING.
I MAY BE JUST A KID...
...YOU ARE, TOO.
...BUT SAKI...


HERE
FWSH
SHOULD WE SUMMON IT?
HEY!
HUH?
WELL...
UH...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WAIT...
I...
huff
huff
huff
POOF
CLINT
WHICH ONE...?
I DON'T KNOW
OR A SHOOTING STAR?
WAS THAT...?
...A UFO?


I LOVE YOU.
WAS...
...THAT IT?
YEP.
OH...
HOW'D IT GO?
WASN'T THERE SOME CHANT?
WHAT...

IT'S CHRISTMAS.

IT SEEMS RIGHT THAT SOMETHING SPECIAL SHOULD HAPPEN TONIGHT.

I THINK...

MAYBE THAT UFO...

...WAS A GIFT SENT TO US BY SANTA CLAUS!

THE END

THOSE ARE THE WORDS TO TELL YOU...

...I'M HERE IN THIS UNIVERSE...

...I'M HERE TO HOLD YOUR HAND.

**Times Two**

Shôjo Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in Animerica Extra Vol. 2, No. 7 through Vol. 2, No. 12

Story & Art by Shouko Akira

English Adaptation/Gerard Jones
Translation/Yuji Oniki
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Cato
Design/Andrea Rice
Editor/Frances E. Wall

Managing Editor/Annette Roman
Director of Production/Noboru Watanabe
Editorial Director/Alvin Lu
Sr. Director of Acquisitions/Rika Inouye
Vice President of Sales & Marketing/Liza Coppola
Executive Vice President/Hyoe Narita
Publisher/Seiji Horibuchi

*© 2002 Shouko Akira/Shogakukan, Inc. First published by Shogakukan, Inc. in Japan as Kakeru Ni. New and adapted artwork and text © 2005 VIZ, LLC. All rights reserved. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.*

*No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.*

Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, February 2005

www.viz.com

PARENTAL ADVISORY
*TIMES TWO* is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. It contains mild language, suggestive themes, and mild sexual humor.

store.viz.com

"Frequency":
I borrowed my friend's name (without her permission) for Kaori, the girl in this story. My friend isn't hot-tempered like this Kaori, though. The premise is a bit supernatural. This is just an aside, but sometimes I look around and wonder if there's someone who can hear my thoughts. (Not that I have anything to hide...)

"Baby Universe":
This is actually my first story with a male protagonist. (In fact, I really like stories where the main character is a guy...I'd just never written one before.) I'd wanted to tell a story like this for quite a while, so I'm glad it finally materialized. I read a magazine feature on UFOs when I was a kid, so my friends and I tried sending signals them. Of course, they never came.

## Afterword

Thanks so much for your readership
I think I was going through a rough time
in my personal life while working on
these stories
I wish I could be stronger
I'll stay dedicated to my work though,
so we'll meet again in the near future!

March 2002

Shouko Akira

## COMPLETE OUR SURVEY AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

☐ Please do NOT send me information about VIZ products, news and events, special offers, or other information

☐ Please do NOT send me information from VIZ's trusted business partners

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

☐ Male ☐ Female Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) ___/___/___ ( Under 13? Parental consent required )

**What race/ethnicity do you consider yourself?** (please check one)

☐ Asian/Pacific Islander ☐ Black/African American ☐ Hispanic/Latino

☐ Native American/Alaskan Native ☐ White/Caucasian ☐ Other _____

**What VIZ product did you purchase?** (check all that apply and indicate title purchased)

☐ DVD/VHS _____

☐ Graphic Novel _____

☐ Magazines _____

☐ Merchandise _____

**Reason for purchase.** (check all that apply)

☐ Special offer ☐ Favorite title ☐ Gift

☐ Recommendation ☐ Other _____

**Where did you make your purchase?** (please check one)

☐ Comic store ☐ Bookstore ☐ Mass/Grocery Store

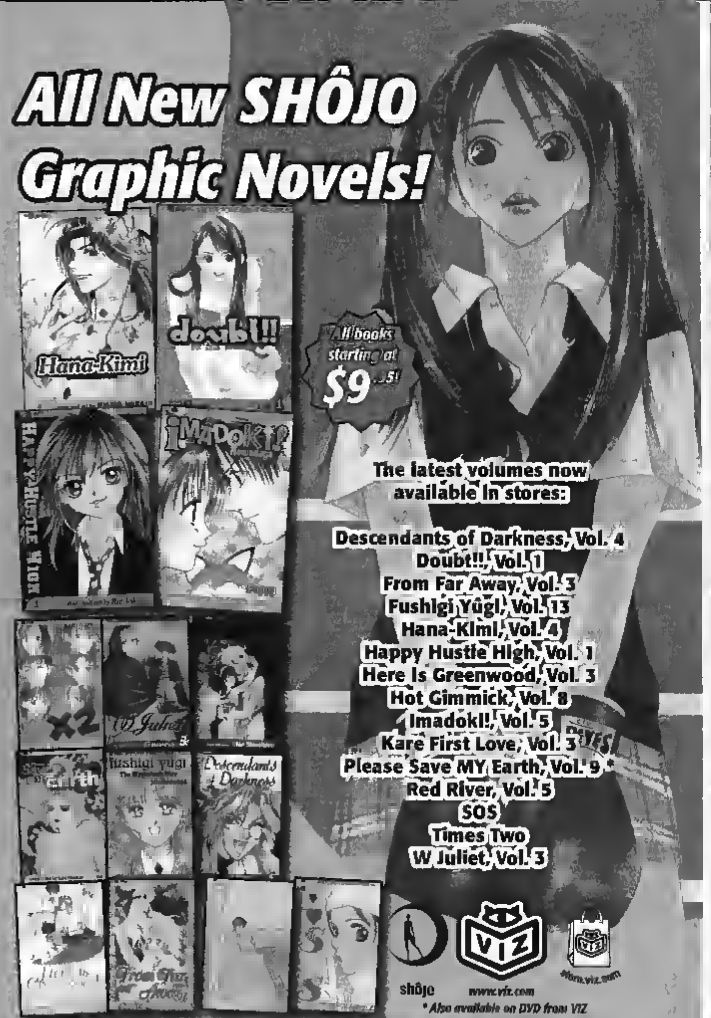
☐ Newsstand ☐ Video/Video Game Store ☐ Other _____

☐ Online (site _____)

**What other VIZ properties have you purchased/own?** _____

_____

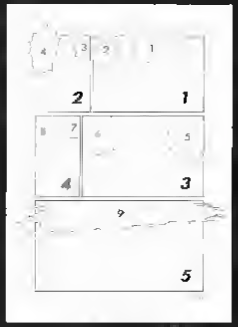

# All New SHÔJO Graphic Novels!



# Hey! You're Reading in the Wrong Direction!

This is the ***end*** of this graphic novel!

To properly enjoy this VIZ graphic novel, please turn it around and begin reading from ***right to left.*** Unlike English, Japanese is read right to left, so Japanese comics are read in reverse order from the way English comics are typically read.




Follow the action this way

This book has been printed in the original Japanese format in order to preserve the orientation of the original artwork. Have fun with it!

**How many anime and/or manga titles have you purchased in the last year? How many were VIZ titles?** (please check one from each column)

| ANIME | MANGA | VIZ |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ None | ☐ None | ☐ None |
| ☐ 1-4 | ☐ 1-4 | ☐ 1-4 |
| ☐ 5-10 | ☐ 5-10 | ☐ 5-10 |
| ☐ 11+ | ☐ 11+ | ☐ 11+ |

**I find the pricing of VIZ products to be:** (please check one)

☐ Cheap ☐ Reasonable ☐ Expensive

**What genre of manga and anime would you like to see from VIZ?** (please check two)

☐ Adventure ☐ Comic Strip ☐ Science Fiction ☐ Fighting
☐ Horror ☐ Romance ☐ Fantasy ☐ Sports

**What do you think of VIZ's new look?**

☐ Love It ☐ It's OK ☐ Hate It ☐ Didn't Notice ☐ No Opinion

**Which do you prefer?** (please check one)

☐ Reading right-to-left
☐ Reading left-to-right

**Which do you prefer?** (please check one)

☐ Sound effects in English
☐ Sound effects in Japanese with English captions
☐ Sound effects in Japanese only with a glossary at the back

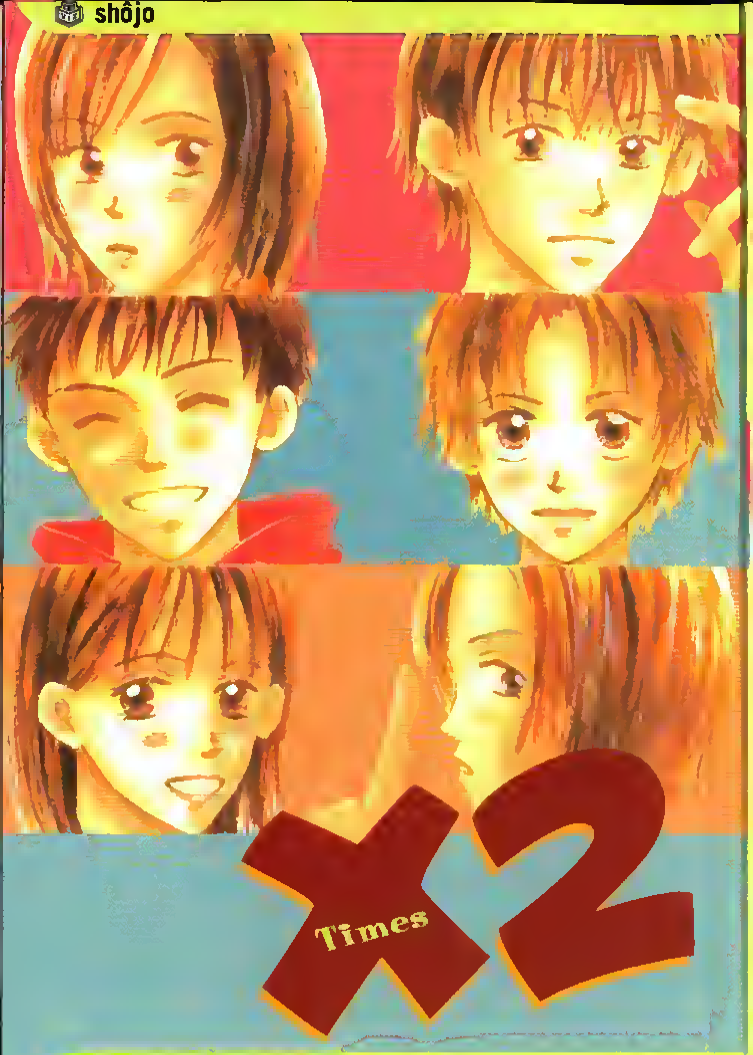
**THANK YOU! Please send the completed form to:**

VIZ Survey
42 Catharine St
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

**All information provided will be used for internal purposes only. We promise not to sell or otherwise divulge your information.**

**NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.** Requests not in compliance with all terms of this form will not be acknowledged or returned. All submissions are subject to verification and become the property of VIZ, LLC. Fraudulent submission, including use of multiple addresses or P.O. boxes to obtain additional VIZ information or offers may result in prosecution. VIZ reserves the right to withdraw or modify any terms of this form. Void where prohibited, taxed, or restricted by law. VIZ will not be liable for lost, misdirected, mutilated, illegible, incomplete or postage-due mail. © 2003 VIZ, LLC. All Rights Reserved. VIZ, LLC. property titles, characters, names and plots therein under license to VIZ, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

shôjo



# Times x2

Story & Art by
**Shouko Akira**

shôjo

Shouko Akira

VIZ

shôjo

VIZ Graphic Novel

$9.99 USA/$14.50 CAN

# Times x2

**When you're in love, life feels like it's multiplied Times Two!**

These five short stories of budding high school romance explore the confusion and exhilaration of falling for someone new!

***Love at First Touch*** Love is in the air at Field Day, and Eri can't figure out what draws her to Kohei!

***Expiration Date 2001*** Miwa's secret crush Kenta gives her a soda, and she decides that the date on the bottom of the can must be symbolic. Could this love taste sweet, or will it go sour?

***Second Impression*** When delinquent Naoki turns out to be an attentive gardener, will he and Haruka sow the seeds of romance together?

***Frequency*** What happens when rascally loudmouth Kaori gains the ability to tune in to the private thoughts of model student Morihiro?

***Baby Universe*** Can Kengo convince Saki that she's not too grown up to recapture the innocent excitement they felt while searching the sky for UFOs as kids?

www.viz.com

This book reads from right to left

RATED T TEEN

ISBN 1-59116-736-1